The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Wretched financial system discussed in Washington

Representatives of 118 countries from the non-Communist world convened at the Washington Sheraton Park Hotel to discuss for a week the wretched condition of the international monetary system.

The old system is dead, many advocates of reform crowed, but the cry "Long live the new system" did not follow. Only the vague outlines of the new system are apparent.

Not even optimists feel it will emerge in black and white within a year. Both politicians and monetary experts will spend years working out the details, though of course a majority of countries have indicated the direction developments can be expected to take.

Whatever happens fixed exchange rates, the basis of the old system, are to be retained, but with greater leeway in terms of both band-width and moderate de- and revaluations.

In order to ease the strain on the United States as a reserve currency country the system is to be made more independent of the dollar and the links between the dollar and gold further severed.

Gold is to decline in significance for the international monetary system. Its place will increasingly be taken by "paper gold," which already exists in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs).

SDRs will only function as a reserve currency and stabilising factor in dealings between central banks, however. All further-reaching plans to oust the dollar as the leading currency proved not only extremely difficult in theory but also totally unrealistic in political terms.

The moderate reform plans agreed on cannot be said to contain really new ideas. They amount to less than proposals that have been debated for some years. But the conference had no time to deal with basic issues.

It was confronted with a crisis that was getting more out of hand with each passing day. Monetary specialists, central bankers, Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers were overwhelmed by political considerations.

The crisis began with what in retrospect would appear to have been a relatively harmless move, the floating of a number of currencies. It now amounts to a struggle for political power giving rise to anxiety lest reasonable attempts to reach an economic solution come to grief.

The political tumult was caused by the United States, which viewed the European exchange-rate moves as a further attack on the battered prestige of the dollar.

In view, moreover, of economic difficulties at home President Nixon decided to take drastic action and on 15 August announced details of a package designed to attract voters at home and bridge the balance-of-payments gap.

Above all Mr Nixon's moves bore witness in no uncertain terms to America's claim to leadership as the strongest Western power even though the United States might at present be in the throes of an economic crisis.

Many IMF delegates were a little unhappy in Washington about the tribute the United States demanded, but the gathering of monetary and financial specialists was fair enough to concede that American deficit spending, now made out to be a cardinal sin, used to be considered an American virtue.

Assurances of assistance from all sides in sharing the American burden and cutting back the US balance-of-payments deficit were thus more than a mere submission to reality. They represented an admission of partial responsibility for the present situation resulting from inflationary policies.

Talks on burden-sharing and realignment of exchange rates are now a joint item on the agenda. On the sidelines, as it were, the Group of Ten, consisting of the countries backing the major Western currencies, and the Finance Ministers of the European Common Market agreed on new deadlines and agendas.

Discussions are to continue, all concerned realising that prolongation of the present state of affairs represents not only a possible end to free convertibility and the introduction of exchange controls but also a risk of contraction of world trade.

US Treasury Secretary John Connally outlined tough and tricky proposals on the penultimate day of the conference. America's import surcharge, which could lead to protectionism and controls all over the world, might, he said, be subject to negotiation if other countries showed willingness to cut back on trade restrictions that have long been a thorn in America's side.

This hint was directed primarily at Japan and the Common Market. These free trade moves were to be accompanied by a temporary floating of all currencies.

There can be no doubt that worldwide currency floating would lead to revaluation in both Europe and Japan that might "for a while" as Karl Schiller of this country put in his final press conference appear tolerable but would in the long run be unacceptable.

This being the case the Americans might, though this is virtually sheer speculation, be prepared to consider devaluing the dollar and not reject the idea out of hand.

The possibility would be a more likely proposition if progress could be achieved on burden-sharing, particularly in respect of the foreign exchange costs of stationing US troops abroad and in development aid.

Fritz Schlossareck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 October 1971)

IN THIS ISSUE



New CDU chairman elected

Rainer Barzel, 47, (left), being congratulated on his election to the chairmanship of the CDU by his defeated opponent, Helmut Kohl, 41. A decisive 244 votes were cast for Herr Barzel and 174 for Herr Kohl. On the extreme right Ludwig Erhard, former chancellor and the man responsible for West Germany's economic miracle, looks on. (Photo: AP)

Language row on Four-Power agreement pushed aside

Kenneth Rush, US ambassador to Bonn, has stated on more than one occasion that he was only prepared to sign the Four-Power agreement on Berlin on learning that agreement had been reached on a German-language version of the treaty.

So there can be no saying that the importance of an agreed German-language version for negotiations between the German authorities on details of how the Four-Power Agreement is to be implemented is merely relative.

The GDR, however, went back on its approval of a German-language version of the Agreement on the day the Four Powers signed the treaty and subsequent agreement has yet to be reached.

Egon Bahr of this country has admitted that differences of opinion in interpreting the terms of the agreement still exist and continue to stymie negotiations between the two German states.

Bonn has now abandoned the mudslinging on interpretation of the agreement and instead called on the GDR to show willing by taking action appropriate to talks on the Four-Power Agreement consistent with the interpretation made in this country.

One opportunity would be an agreement on the improvement of postal traffic and offset payments to the GDR by this country's Bundespost.

Now that the GDR has consented to the Bundespost acting on West Berlin's behalf State Secretary Bahr has issued an invitation to Michael Kohl, his GDR opposite number, to resume negotiations.

The two men have agreed to start talks on civil passengers and freight traffic between the Federal Republic and the three Western sectors of Berlin. For the time being, then, the GDR's demand that West Berlin and the Federal Republic negotiate separately as laid down in the Four-Power Agreement has been defused.

As the prelude makes it appear more than likely that the inter-German negotiations will follow the same pattern as the Four-Power talks and take ages to circumnavigate the various pitfalls a number of questions remain open.

It may, for instance, well be that the question of who on the Western side is to sign the traffic agreement with the GDR when it comes to the pinch will recur.

Differing interpretations will also play a part in negotiations on other details. Herr Bahr has already noted — in a most defensive manner — that agreement on what constitutes a breach of regulations sufficient to justify spot checks by the GDR customs authorities will prove a tough nut to crack.

This is why it is worth pointing out that in the interest of the Four-Power Agreement the outcome of the German talks on travel to and from West Berlin must contain no greater impediments than follow on directly from the terms of the Allied agreement on Berlin.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 October 1971)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Britain's spy-expulsions have not dramatically undermined detente efforts

The expulsion of 105 Soviet diplomats and officials raises a number of issues in relation to Britain's policy towards the Eastern Bloc, particularly now that the Foreign Office aide-mémoire to the Kremlin links KGB operations in Britain with the European security conference on which the Soviet Union is so keen.

Britain has made it unmistakeably clear that it will only agree to a conference of this kind on condition that KGB activity in Britain is cut back considerably.

Since it is well known that Whitehall has so far been less enthusiastic about the idea of a security conference than other Western governments suspicions were bound to arise that Prime Minister Heath and Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home would like to prevent or at least postpone the holding of a security conference.

The juncture at which Whitehall resorted to this drastic measure might even give rise to suspicions that it represents an attempt by Whitehall to undermine Chancellor Brandt's *Ostpolitik*.

It was only to be expected that the Soviet Union would put this interpretation to the expulsion order and have its propaganda machine make out the order to be a reversion to cold war.

By then it was too late for the Foreign Office's attempt to make the expulsion out to be of no political significance to have any effect.

A more convincing argument mustered by the British government is that it is not Whitehall that is holding up a European [illegible] dropov whose overgrown intelligence bureaucracy casts doubt on the seriousness of his political masters' intentions.

What the Soviet government ought to be doing, Whitehall argues, is to put their secret service chief in his place. In other

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words Britain trusts that the Kremlin will not allow itself to be diverted from its political aims by an intelligence slip-up, always providing, of course, that it really considers these aims to be important.

The British government does not expect serious political consequences to ensue but is prepared for the possibility. To a certain extent, of course, it had no choice in the matter.

Whitehall had to act once the Soviet secret service learnt of the desertion of a high-ranking intelligence official and could no longer be in any doubt as to the fact that its network of agents had been blown.

Otherwise the KGB would have grown increasingly audacious and the Kremlin been increasingly contemptuous in its dismissals of protests lodged by London.

The question ex-Labour Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart is now asking is whether the government had to stage such a spectacular show. It could have expelled the offenders in smaller groups and with far less publicity.

The effect on the Soviet Union would not have been so intense and the political consequences could have been kept to within calculable limits.

Whitehall's attitude in the debate on a security conference now depends in the further Soviet response.

It is by no means out of the question that the Brussels meeting of Nato Deputy Foreign Ministers will adopt a more wait-and-see attitude in debating the terms of reference for outgoing Nato Secretary-General Manlio Brosio of Italy who is to go on a fact-finding tour of the Eastern Bloc to probe the prospects of a mutual balanced force reduction.

Is this, on the side, another of Whitehall's targets?

There are a number of indications that Britain might be interested in postponing the security conference as long as possible – until, say, such time as it is a member of the EEC and its arguments carry greater weight as being those of a prominent member of the Common Market.

It is interesting to note how [illegible] importance Whitehall (in the person of Premier Heath EEC negotiator [illegible]) attaches to an intensification of European defence efforts.

Britain is evidently interested in [illegible]ing this issue and that of American [illegible] reductions in Europe before the [illegible] takes its place at the security conference table. The American Presidential elections next autumn are another important [illegible] to note.

Security conference reservations

These reservations about a [illegible] conference need not necessarily [illegible] serious repercussions on Bonn's [illegible]*politik*, particularly as ideas about [illegible] conference are still extremely vague [illegible] both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Whitehall certainly has no intention [illegible] interfering with Chancellor Brandt's [illegible] tempt to establish a modus vivendi [illegible] the two German states. It did its [illegible] negotiating the Four-Power agreement [illegible] Berlin.

Mr Heath is neither willing nor [illegible] undermine the detente endeavours [illegible] Nixon, Pompidou and Brandt "at one [illegible] swoop," to use one of his [illegible] phrases.

Dieter Schröder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September [illegible])

Moscow and Peking and the European Economic Community

There is rivalry between Moscow and Peking in the approaches to the Common Market too. Both are seeking to establish contact with the EEC by no longer shunning it.

The two unequal contact-seekers are still far from according the European Economic Community full recognition. [illegible] propaganda insisted on calling the EEC the "economic section of the Nato war alliance."

But the persistent diplomatic footslogging with which the two countries are reconnoitring Brussels and other Western European capitals is already forcing them to make further moves.

Neither is prepared to allow the other to gain the advantage. Should the Common Market one day prove a suitable treaty partner for either Moscow or Peking each would prefer to reap the Western European harvest itself and would certainly begrudge it the other.

Diplomatic contacts have proved that when the need arises both Moscow and Peking are prepared to break the taboo of ignoring the Common Market as a trade factor overnight.

It almost looks as though the Soviet Union were in the process of stepping up its reappraisal of Western European integration. There are even a number of signs that Moscow is planning in the long term to attach considerable importance to the EEC.

Were the first phase of this strategy to succeed and a European security conference to be established as a permanent fixture there would be time and place enough for the second stage of cooperation between alliances in East and West and synchronisation between the EEC and Comecon.

As the danger and prospects inherent in these Soviet designs are self-evident Western European planners have not been inactive. The Soviet interest in the EEC is the major item on the agenda of the Western European summit proposed by M. Pompidou and Mr. Heath.

Peking would seem, as far as the Common Market is concerned, to be less committed, less the prisoner of its own unconsidered propaganda yet at the same time less tenacious.

Peking has yet to grasp a fact that Moscow has long appreciated. From 1973 Common Market members will be unable to conclude trade agreements with other countries independently and from 1975 on they will even be unable to implement them single-handedly.

From this date on the Community will represent Common Market countries'

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trade interest with others, *not the in*dividual countries themselves.

From the mid-seventies anyone wishing to conclude a trade agreement [illegible] Common Market countries will have [illegible] apply to the Common Market Commission in Brussels.

The Russians and the Chinese may [illegible] it more difficult to come to terms [illegible] this state of affairs politically than [illegible] would economically.

Since they are both economically [illegible] able to make even the most minute [illegible] forward without Western and [illegible] European assistance (except, that is, by dint of intense effort) it is clear what is sooner or later bound to happen.

Hunger for goods in general and [illegible] need for technological imports in particular are both working in the Common Market's favour.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 1 October 1971)

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Yugoslavia rehabilitated into Moscow's circle of friends

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Pravda was lavish in its choice of words to describe General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to Belgrade. It talked in terms of fraternal feelings between the peoples of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

There was the significant traditional formula of warm fraternal greetings conveyed to the Yugoslavs by Mr Brezhnev in the name of Soviet workers.

In the opinion of Soviet observers the ideological importance of the visit, which is considered to have been a great success, is almost on a par with the foreign policy consequences.

In addition to a fairly uniform view of major international problems the foreign policy consequence is, Moscow feels, in the main that Peking will not be able to establish a foothold in the Balkans – certainly not with Yugoslav support.

Had this not been the case, political observers in Moscow feel, the visit would have been a far less cordial affair and there would have been no question of extending an invitation to President Tito to pay the Soviet Union a return visit.

The ideological passages in the joint declaration are not to be underestimated either, Moscow feels. They contrast sharply with the gloomy forecasts about the Yugoslav way to socialism privately made in the Soviet capital until recently.

Leonid Brezhnev's renewal of Nikita Khrushchev's 1955 guarantee of Yugoslavia's independence and independent development has not come as much of a surprise. Nor has the Soviet leader's denial of the existence of a so-called Brezhnev Doctrine.

Yet only a matter of weeks ago it was noted in the Soviet capital that the Party leader had no intention of making concessions to Belgrade.

With a few qualifications, moreover, Yugoslavia was rehabilitated as a full member of the socialist world system and *Pravda* talked in terms of the joint class stand of the two countries, which necessarily involves a positive assessment of President Tito's domestic and foreign policy.

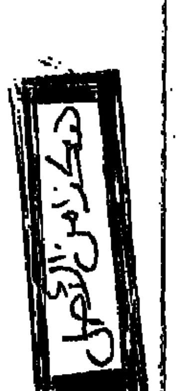
Soviet sources are less responsive to suggestions that a logical consequence of this move would be to allow all socialist countries to pursue a policy of independent development without running the risk of being declared traitors to the cause of socialism by the Soviet Union.

Part of the solution to the riddle is that Moscow reckons Tito is a little less confident about the benefit of going it alone.

This, at any rate, is the interpretation made in Moscow of recent speeches by the Yugoslav leader in which he has reiterated the need for class struggle and spoken out against bourgeois elements.

Uwe Engelbrecht

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 September 1971)



■ HOME AFFAIRS

SPD and FDP are tackling domestic reforms in too timid a manner

Foreign policy makes a mark. Once again a German Chancellor is freewheeling within the unlimited scope of a boldly conceived foreign policy strategy, making one almost forget the trials and tribulations of home affairs.

It is no underestimation of the friction and risk of failure of a major foreign policy operation to note that a hard core of Cabinet policy of old remains at the disposal of diplomacy and that the statesman who starts the ball rolling continues to hold most of the trumps.

In the domestic affairs of a pluralistic democracy there cannot be the same degree of secrecy, discretion and sovereign timing or elimination of politically relevant factors that may create difficulties.

The leader of the Opposition is kept informed to a certain degree as to the progress of diplomatic moves but since it is a matter of foreign policy he is bound by a measure of loyalty to raison d'état.

When, for that matter, has a Chancellor "in action" cared two hoots for the speculative scribblings of the Press? Leaks may be a nuisance but they can also be an integral part of policy.

Foreign policymakers deal with secretive chancelleries and poker-faced opposite numbers, a point particularly apparent in Willy Brandt's present dealings with the Eastern Bloc.

And Egon Bahr, the Chancellor's faithful right-hand man, is taking good care to ensure that any disturbance of these *confidential* negotiations is largely pre*cluded* prior to their conclusion.

The Chancellor is, however, all the more dependent on a successful conclusion being reached. Democracy has its drawbacks in that a statesman who is responsible to his parliament is, in the final analysis, the prisoner of his own moves.

This is an unmistakeable weakness in dealing with opposite numbers who need

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fear neither public opinion nor the response of elected representatives.

But then Mr Brezhnev is also vulnerable within the politbureau and central committee of his Bolshevist party and in his way equally dependent on success, as has recently been brought to mind by the fate of Nikita Khrushchev.

Practical politics in the enormous domestic sector, which is virtually impossible to survey at one fell swoop, is another matter altogether.

Not that there is less scope for imaginative politics. Quite the reverse. Month by month new major tasks grow like hydra's heads that can only be dealt with by dint of energetic action.

The statesman in a pluralistic system has a vast number of daily decisions to make. Economic and financial considerations, function as a more vicious brake on domestic policy action than competition with another country ever will.

Dependence on these various considerations is there for all to see on the political stage, not covered by the provisions of, say, the Official Secrets Act. A budget can be manipulated but its effects cannot be warded off or intensified.

If foreign policy moves come to naught they can always be called to a halt in good time and with a shrug of the shoulders.

Domestic policy hopes, once awakened, are dangerous to dash for the politician responsible even though he may be able to point out with some degree of credibility that forces beyond his control are to blame.

Foreign policymakers have a far easier time of explaining that others are to blame.

Put in a nutshell, the point is this. Chancellor Willy Brandt may be able to pursue his policy of "change through rapprochement" and his *Ostpolitik* to a successful conclusion but he will not, in the life of this parliament at least, be a Chancellor of domestic reforms.

The momentum of the Social Democrats' will to carry through reforms has ground to a halt. Have they shot their bolt in debate? Will they get no further than preliminary discussions?

The marshalling of manifold interests, the determination of the smaller coalition partner to make a name for itself, the unhindered desire for higher wages and prices and the pauperisation of the public purse by the explosion in jobs and salaries for government and local government officials are but a few of the hydra's heads that are nipping reforms in the bud.

Increased wealth is passing unhindred into private hands while nearly all projects that would improve the performance of the public sector are affected by cuts in allocations.

Boldly conceived though the coalition's foreign policy may be, the Social and Free Democrats are setting about home affairs in a timid and half-hearted way.

Have they already shot their bolt, is the FDP hindering the SPD or is this a foretaste of the election campaign to gain the support of the middle class, which is wavering between SPD, FDP and Christian Democrats?

Public opinion is well ahead of government activity. Even idiots and ignoramuses now realise that schools, kindergartens, universities, roads, Undergrounds, hospitals, purification plant and garbage incinerators, all of which are loudly demanded all over the country, cost a great deal of money.

Reform is no longer mainly a matter of redistribution between the rich and the poor, of welfare. It is a matter of redistribution from private consumption to public services – structural policy for all.

A gigantic task of this kind calls for changes in public awareness and a realignment of priorities.

It is growing increasingly apparent that domestic modernisation of the social system must necessarily follow on from the cementation of the status quo in Europe and definitive relaxation of tension that will mark the end of the second stage in this country's post-war foreign policy.

Young people, although seemingly quieter and more indifferent these days (though who can tell?), are growing impatient and not prepared to wait half a generation for what has already been realised and worked out in theory.

They have a right to expect that evident dangers and misdevelopments once recognised as such be determinedly dealt with.

For us Central Europeans on the borderline between two worlds foreign policy may continue to be our destiny but domestic policy represents the life we live.

Emil Obermann

(Publik, 24 September 1971)

Awkward Opposition questions in the Bundestag

The Opposition has called on the government to say what reforms it intends to carry out in the life of the current parliament and will be able to finance.

The idea is to force the government to admit that it took on more than it could chew last autumn with a working programme consisting of more than 400 points.

The Opposition's questions are awkward but justified. The government itself had put off the Opposition and public opinion until the autumn.

Now that Cabinet decisions have been taken on financial planning there is no reason for giving evasive replies and not outlining the main emphasis of government plans.

The government would be doing itself the gravest disservice again to try and put conceivable and foreseeable reforms all in one pot. Reform policies would still be nebulous.

Financial plans will in any case make it clear what can and cannot be achieved. Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller would do well to indulge in some plain budgetary speaking and not limit himself to growth-rate statistical acrobatics.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 September 1971)

Opposition steps up pressure for government to act on domestic reform programme

To judge by what the Opposition say they are going to great lengths to force the government at long last to pursue the policy of domestic reforms that is its declared aim but which it has so far failed to put into practice.

Already the Opposition have tabled their second major policy motion on the working programme of the Federal government.

No one, of course, harbours any illusions as to the fact that the Christian Democrats are merely utilising to the full their legitimate means of making difficulties for the ruling coalition of Social and Free Democrats.

The Opposition must, however, realise that they are not likely to derive much benefit. In the first half of the life of the present Bundestag the government has implemented or at least inaugurated action on more than half the policy aims contained in the policy statement of 28 October 1969.

At the same time it would be wrong to claim that the government has been uncommonly successful in the domestic policy sector. What has held good for the first two years in office will doubtless apply to the remaining two.

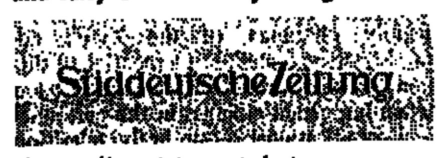
Progress in *Ostpolitik* is not matched by comparable progress on the home front. The government has carried out a fair amount of minor work and can tick off most of the individual points on its policy agenda. But it has yet to succeed in a grand design in any sector that might justify the term domestic reform.

The second half of the life-span of the present parliament is unlikely to bring with it any major changes in this respect. One almost gains the impression that a number of Ministries are so satisfied with what they have so far achieved that they are none too keen on taking a fresh run-up at anything in particular.

Much-maligned Housing Minister Lauritz Lauritzen, for instance, has succeeded in passing through parliament the controversial Town Planning Promotion Act, which has now come into force, and now that this toughest nut has been cracked he can sit back and ply the Bundestag with allied legislation, as it were.

Lauritzen's case is a prize example of how difficult domestic policy can be when the machinery of legislation goes at too fast a pace.

Both coalition parties had to accept and carry out what they had agreed on in



their policy statement, but as soon as a government department starts to go beyond this part of the agenda the coalition partner starts to become distrustful and stymieing legislation.

Like Herr Lauritzen Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher can numerically be satisfied with his Ministry's accounts, as it were. His four major environmental Bills have either been passed, submitted to parliament or approved by the Cabinet.

As regards their substance, however, specialists are agreed that the compromises reached are such that the legislation will just about enable the Ministry to prevent the pollution situation from becoming more intolerable than it already is and no more.

Among the other major Ministries Gerhard Jahn at the Ministry of Justice can also claim to have cleared the hurdles of the new laws on sexual offences and divorce. The new-look abortion law shortly to be submitted to parliament has been so toned down that only the minor coalition party, the Free Democrats, are objecting because they would prefer a further-reaching reform.

Prison law reform and Minister of Health Käte Strobel's foodstuffs law reform, both of which still have a long way to go, are less likely to become bogged down by ideological considerations, but this is more than can be said of educational reform.

It is reasonable to assume that domestic policy debate will, apart from financial, economic and tax legislation, centre on social affairs proper by the time the next general election is due to be held in autumn 1973.

Last June the coalition called on Labour Minister Walter Arendt to submit a five-point programme on old-age pension insurance. This package deal includes a flexible retirement age, pensions based on minimum earnings, a "baby year" for women, availability of insurance facilities for the self-employed and divorcees.

The Social Democrats expect this programme to be a vote-catcher and the Opposition is equally determined to make capital out of it, cheerfully playing on pensioners' hopes.

There is certainly no shortage of domestic explosive but the government has learnt the lesson of overplaying its hand. "Reforms," it has recently proclaimed in newspaper advertisements, "cannot be measured by a stopwatch."

Klaus Rudolf Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

■ NEWS MEDIA

Augstein puts the brakes on *Spiegel's* left-wing

Rudolf Augstein

For months there has been an uneasy atmosphere at *Spiegel* headquarters. The clash between left-wingers and moderate liberals has risen in intensity with the clash between Alexander von Hoffmann, the head of *Deutschland I*, one of the home news departments, and Erich Böhme, the head of the Bonn branch.

Publisher Rudolf Augstein and editor-in-chief Günter Gaus have now dismissed Alexander von Hoffmann.

Hans Detlev Becker, director of the *Spiegel* publishing house, refused to comment. "I do not intend to answer your questions," he said, adding, "Herr Augstein too will say nothing."

The state of affairs that the two supporting pillars of this publishing organisation wanted to conceal from public gaze and attention had burst out into the open at a meeting of the *Spiegel* editorial staff on the evening of 20 September.

The rift deepened between the editors on the one hand and the editors-in-chief and Augstein on the other and at the same time the right-wing staff were split from the left wing.

The climax and, for the time being, the final word in the debate about the editorial staff's right to participate in decision-making came when the seven-man editorial council resigned that afternoon after Augstein had that morning taken back his promise to consult the council before making staff changes.

The editorial council, elected by the full assembly, consisted of four moderate liberals and three left-wing representatives.

Augstein's displeasure with his left wing increased as the clash between Alexander von Hoffmann and Erich Böhme grew fiercer.

Böhme accused the six-man *Deutschland I* news department, headed by Hoffmann and responsible for covering Bonn policy, of describing Böhme's thirteen-man team in Bonn as reactionary.

The Bonn group hit back by calling the Hamburg department left-wing liars, which did not do much towards creating the atmosphere of cooperation and coordination that a magazine like *Spiegel* needs.

The quarrel rose storey by storey up the *Spiegel* skyscraper in Hamburg until editor-in-chief Gaus found it necessary to talk to von Hoffmann and his friend Böhme with whom he had once worked on the former *Deutsche Zeitung*.

But the most striking result of these interviews was the rumour that von Hoffmann was to leave his post as head of *Department D I* and take up another job within the concern.

Gaus at first denied the rumour but when Hoffmann asked a second time in the early hours of the morning of 12 June if the report was true Gaus no longer stuck to the denial.

Augstein and Gaus had previously met Böhme to smooth over his poor relationships with von Hoffmann and editor-in-chief Gaus admitted that his first denial had been a lie told because of his "perplexed helplessness".

Gestures of solidarity now began to snowball. The same night the second D I man asked to be relieved of his duties. Another threatened that he would in no even resign while he was still a member of the editorial council while yet another, who had nothing to do with department D I, came along to protest. During that same night Gaus considered whether he should leave.

But the editor-in-chief remained and publisher Augstein threatened to change his plans for staff participation in decision-making under which the staff would have had a fifty-per-cent say from 1973 onwards if the editorial council rejected decisions on personnel taken by management and the editors-in-chief.

Augstein even spoke of amputation, meaning that he would split with the left-wingers if need be. Gaus argued that it was best to get rid of the person that could be replaced more easily, adding that the head of the Bonn branch could not be sacked two and a half years before the next elections. It was Gaus who dismissed Böhme's predecessor Goyke from the post in 1969, the last election year.

But the editorial council disapproved of Alexander von Hoffmann's dismissal from his post as head of the Deutschland I department. Colleges said that he was once a truly liberal conservative.

Augstein, his editors-in-chief and editors then agreed to delay the final decision until 30 September when the von Hoffmann case would be raised again.

The purpose of the agreement was to catch up on negotiations that had not yet been conducted, allowing Böhme and von Hoffmann to find some way of solving their difference with Gaus' help. The two protagonists also agreed and von Hoffmann's dismissal was withdrawn.

Some observers claim that this was not the case de facto and that editor-in-chief Gaus had indicated he had wanted to uphold the original decision in which his influence had told.

They further claim that Gaus had taken sides against the Deutschland I department with remarks that the description "left-wing liars" was more tenable than "reactionary". Gaus' friend Böhme and other members of the Bonn staff had indicated no readiness for compromise, they add.

In the end, most of the editorial council no longer saw any possibility of effecting an agreement between D I and the Bonn branch. The conflict had become a conflit over house policy and had meanwhile assumed the character of a clash between ideologically-motivated group interests.

A minority on the editorial council continued to hold out against staff changes but it is hard to say how much the "left wing" is concerned with participation in decision-making or with getting their ideological line accepted.

Publisher Augstein did not tarry long. On 20 September he and his editor-in-chief confirmed von Hoffmann's dismissal and stated that they would have no share in what they described as the suicidal activities of the editorial council. Augstein had already described two memoranda from this body as harmful to the concern.

Staff questions would now only be dealt with by the management and editors-in-chief, they added, the editors did not after all form a parliament, the editorial council was not a committee of the full assembly and the statutes of this body only led to anarchy.

The explosion had occurred. The only thing the full assembly could do was to disapprove of the form of the decision of the editors-in-chief by a two-thirds majority.

Rudolf Augstein had put forward his plans for participation in decision-making at a time when calls for editorial sta[tutes] could not be overheard.

The two sides agreed in a statute [in] which the editorial council would [re]present the interests of the editors [without] being bound to the decisions of the [full] editorial assembly.

But Rudolf Augstein has now obvio[usly] changed his mind. As representative [of] an important section of staff who will [in] future have a fifty-per-cent share of the firm's capital, he argues, the editorial council must imbue itself with a cer[tain] amount of institutional ideology. This includes resisting attempts by the full assembly to cut its powers.

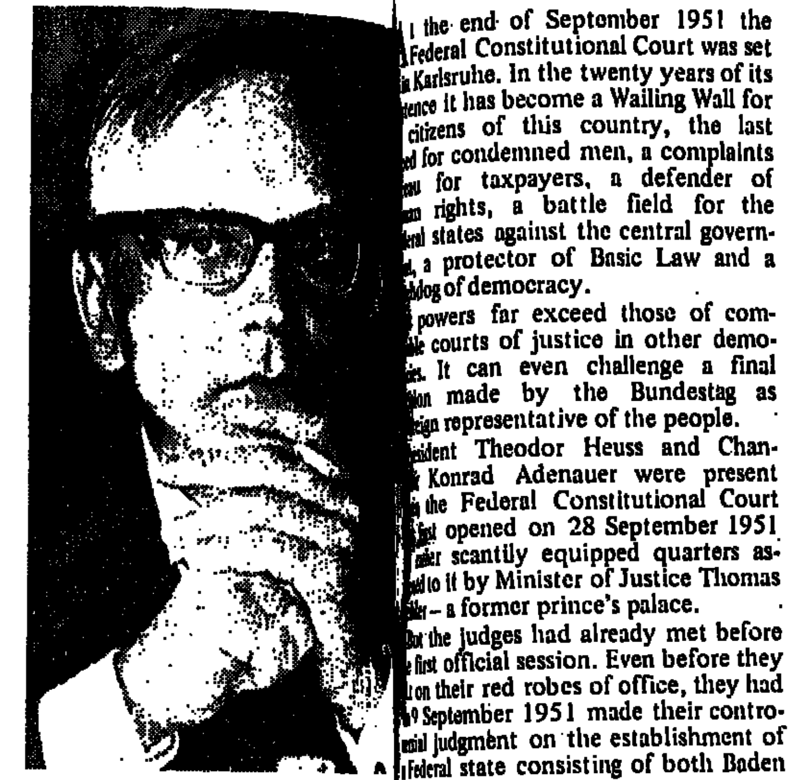
Augstein left no doubt as to the [extent] of his determination. He announced [early] on that the leading men in the conc[ern] would not look on unmoved if after [a] decision in the Bonn/D I case the editorial staff took action that the concern would consider illegal.

Observers now believe that Augstein's plan was only meant to guard agai[nst] worse evils. They wonder whether he w[ill] have to sever himself from the left-wi[ng] in case the power balance in his fi[rm] swings against him in a few years time.

Maria Helderscheidt

(Handelsblatt, 24 September 19[71])

(Photos: [dpa])



Günter Gaus

Social Democrats show sudden interest in television

After years of patient toleration and indifference, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) has suddenly demonstrated its interest in the politics of television with remarkable self-confidence.

With a gesture that was perhaps somewhat hectic though easily understandable considering the importance of the issue, Prime Minister Alber Osswald of Hesse, deputy chairman of the ZDF's administrative council, left a meeting of this body at the head of a three-man team when important changes in the personnel and organisational set-up in the television network's chief editorial staff were decided in private.

Osswald said that the SPD should have been informed about the items on the agenda and provided with the information necessary to gain some understanding of the changed situation.

The head of the administrative council, Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl, countered that there had been a clear wish at a session last summer to discuss the whole complex of issues this September.

Whatever the result of the argument about such formalities, there remains the fact that the Christian Democrat triumvirate — politician Kohl, director-general Holzamer and editor-in-chief Woller, — went over the ground together on the day before the meeting.

There seems to be some grounds for suspecting that these three men with similar political views wanted to come to some agreement on staffing policy.

The sharp reaction of the SPD, which thinks, presumably justifiably, that it was outmanoeuvred on this occasion, is less an answer to this preparatory meeting as part of a general movement to finding a more consistent policy towards the mass media.

Osswald's action indicates that the demand made on the Prime Ministers of the Federal states by Jockel Fuchs, a Social Democrat and deputy chairman of the television council, was no flash in the pan.

Fuchs demanded that the ZDF's contract should be withdrawn. The Social Democrats, and basically the Free Democrats too, are obviously no longer prepared to tolerate for ever what Fuchs called the one-sided political majority formations on the ZDF'S controlling boards.

Seen in this light, an escalation in the conflict surrounding the issue cannot be welcome to the CDU/CSU especially as this is the tenth year in the existence of the ZDF and discontented Prime Minis[ters] now have their first chance of scrapping the agreement.

The administrative council is tied to compromise and cooperation if it is [not] to become a farce or a permanent batt[le]field.

But practically no more than lip-servi[ce] would be paid to this necessary co-operation if the administrative council, a controlling body with a high degree of decision-making responsability in the personnel sphere, were to degenerate into a board where motions were passed indiscriminately by a party political majority.

The SPD must have understood the situation. Osswald's drastic action was supported by party colleagues in [Bonn] who had long been in a state of lethargy as far as the mass media were concerned.

The Social Democrats can also count on the support of the Free Democrats who in recent months have warned repeatedly about the alarming tendency for the ZDF to become a Christian-Democrat controlled "CDF".

The final crunch has only been delayed. The question of party political power [and] end independent programme compilation unless the situation changes and the ZDF is once again considered an organisation [of] the mass media in the service of the publ[ic].

Hans-Joachim Noack

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 197[1])

■ GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Court celebrates twenty years of existence

[At] the end of September 1951 the Federal Constitutional Court was set [up] in Karlsruhe. In the twenty years of its [exist]ence it has become a Wailing Wall for citizens of this country, the last [resort] for condemned men, a complaints [bure]au for taxpayers, a defender of [hum]an rights, a battle field for the [Fede]ral states against the central govern[ment], a protector of Basic Law and a [watch]dog of democracy.

[Its] powers far exceed those of com[para]ble courts of justice in other demo[cracie]s. It can even challenge a final [decis]ion made by the Bundestag as [sover]eign representative of the people.

[Pres]ident Theodor Heuss and Chan[cello]r Konrad Adenauer were present [whe]n the Federal Constitutional Court [fir]st opened on 28 September 1951 [in r]ather scantily equipped quarters as[sign]ed to it by Minister of Justice Thomas [Deh]ler – a former prince's palace.

[B]ut the judges had already met before [th]e first official session. Even before they [put] on their red robes of office, they had [on] 9 September 1951 made their contro[vers]ial judgment on the establishment of [a] Federal state consisting of both Baden [an]d Württemberg.

Even then people raised the question of how far political struggles could be decided by a legal ruling. In his opening address Hermann Höpker-Aschoff, the Court's first head, stated, "it is not the task of the Federal Constitutional Court to take decisions about political conflicts but merely to ensure that the participants of these struggles respect the norms of Basic Law that are binding on everybody and guarantee order."

Twenty years later Professor Gerhard Leibholz, one of the Court's judges and on the point of retiring, writes in a recently-published book, "It cannot be disputed that the issues subject to the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court touch upon political issues and that the decisions of the Court could have extra-ordinarily far-reaching political consequences and alter decisively the play of political forces."

Gebhard Müller, the head of the Constitutional Court until 13 October this year, also takes stock in the same book.

"After twenty years," he writes, "it can be stated that the establishment of the Court has made an essential contribution to the stabilisation of the life of the State and that the comprehensive constitutional controls have not led to an intolerable spread of politics into the administration of justice as opponents of the Constitutional Court feared."

Since 1951 a total of 22,000 complaints have been received by the Karlsruhe-based Court. The help promised to citizens in Basic Law takes up half the time of the two chambers.

Though relatively few complaints are successful important rulings have been made at times. In 1953 it was decided that men and women were equal and were to be treated as such. This resulted in a number of changes in laws concerning marriage and family matters.

In 1956 the Federal Constitutional Court stated that the Communist Party was unconstitutional and banned it.

In 1961 the Court stated that the foundation of a "German Television Company" by the central government and Chancellor Adenauer was null and void as it was incompatible with Basic Law.

The Court caused a sensation in 1966 when it rejected a complaint by the *Spiegel* publishing company, thus providing the final verdict on the *Spiegel* affair of October 1962.

The Constitutional Court has been praised and reviled in the past twenty years. Its decisions often cause displeasure in Bonn. When the judges thwarted the government's plans for a television network Chancellor Adenauer stated, "The Cabinet is agreed that the Constitutional Court's judgment is wrong."

Politicians of all shades of opinion were indignant when the Court banned the financing of parties from public funds. The man-on-the-street's anger was raised when the Court approved a phone-tapping law.

Changes will be made in the composition of the Court towards the end of the year. Apaprt from Gebhard Müller, five other judges are leaving because their term of office has elapsed or they have reached the retiring age.

Wiltraut Rupp von Brünneck and Rudi Wandt can be re-elected but for months now politicians in Bonn have been wrestling over the issue of who to appoint to the four vacant posts.

The most likely candidate for the position of president is Karl Carstens, a former State Secretary in the Chancellor's Office and a Christian Democrat. Another Christian Democrat, Ernst Benda, a former Minister of the Interior, is also in the running.

The CDU will not decide who should be sent to Karlsruhe until after the party congress this October. The SPD has already made up its mind and nominated Martin Hirsch, the deputy chairman of the parliamentary party, as a judge in the Constitutional Court's Second Chamber.

In three and a half years time Hirsch would then succeed Walter Seuffert as the Court's Vice-President.

Walter Schallies

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)

Fewer violent demonstrations

The number of violent demonstrations in the Federal Republic declined last year. The Ministry of the Interior, Bonn stated that of the 1,383 demonstrations last year a total of 122 led to breaches of the peace.

This means that only one demonstration in every eleven ended in trouble in 1970. One in four demonstrations ended in violence in 1968 and one in three during 1969.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 September 1971)

Humanist Union's 10th anniversary

Ten years ago on 28 September 1961 the Humanist Union was registered with the registrar of companies. The writer and journalist Gerhard Szczesny had sponsored its foundation.

The Humanist Union, a body particularly concerned with taking religion from the schools, stated in its manifesto: "It is the task of the Humanist Union to ensure the preservation or restoration of our basic rights, defend the communal values and amenities of our State, advocate a system of education and research that is free and ivorced from all ideology, and do everything suited to leading to the revelation and recognition of the religious, philosophical, ideological, artistic and existentialist trends in our society."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)

Committee discusses plan to fine polluters

The Cabinet Committee for Environmental Questions met on 22 September to discuss a conservation programme put forward by Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher and based on a list of immediate measures drawn up some time ago.

The committee consists of all the Ministers in Bonn apart from those of Development Aid, Inter-German Relations and Justice. This shows how complex the subject is considered.

The draft conservation programme envisaged programmes costing of 28,000 million Marks up to 1975. The money would be raised by the central government, Federal states, local authorities and industry.

Industry would contribute 15,300 million Marks and the central government would pay 3,600 millions of the remaining amount. Medium-term financial planning involving 1,400 millions is not much [illegible].

From what has leaked out, it is expected that the environmental programme will pay great attention to the causes of pollution. The cost of any conservation measures will be borne by those who caused the damage in question.

But the demands placed on the viability of industry must not be too great. Some distinction must be made between firms that are already existing — which would face fewer demands as far as conservation is concerned — and firms about to be built which would have to satisfy stricter standards.

It is also reported that the conservation programme contains a number of organisational measures that should help to create the necessary bodies for acting against pollution.

Consideration is being paid to setting up a Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Environment responsible for all the purely technical and administrative tasks now distributed among a number of Ministries.

This body would be modelled on the Federal Administrative Bureau which deals centrally with the tasks of general administration under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and the other Ministers affected by its actions.

Giving the new body a structure of this type would avoid the danger of turning it into a Super-Ministry of the Environment which would come into conflict with those ministries that had surrendered some of their jurisdiction.

President Schäfer of the Federal Accounts Court has been asked to submit a memorandum on what type of organisation would be most suitable for a body concerned with questions of the environment.

It is also intended to create a council of environmental specialists along the lines of the Specialist Council for Overall Economic Develpment.

A specialist council for environmental questions would consist of experts and not representatives of various groups, would be small from a numerical point of view and would not be attached to any ministry but would enjoy a considerable degree of independence.

The Specialist Council would have to submit a report on the current situation at various intervals of time and propose what measures should be taken.

So far there is no environmental statistics law but this should be remedied by next spring. This law would oblige the government to compile comprehensive statistics on matters such as water and air pollution based on standardised criteria, which has not been the case up to now meaning that it was hard to compare data.

Despite its rather non-controversial-sounding title, it will be hard to push the law through the Bundestag because of the expenditure it involved.

The various penal clauses now contained in a number of laws including some new ones such as the Immission Act should be convered by special laws, at least as far as glaring examples of violations against regulations for the conservation of the environment are concerned.

Action of this nature would tend to make people see what is illegal. A sixteen-man team that has already submitted proposals for penal reform is now to draw up a draft law covering pollution offences of this type.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 September 1971)

THE COSTS OF POLLUTION

Estimated total costs between 1971 and 1975 would be 38 milliard Marks

4,8 5,9 7,4 9,0 10,9
1971 72 73 74 75
Breakdown of costs
Cleansing industrial water 20.7
Disposing of garbage 6.3
Cleaning air 3.9
Environment protection 2.4
Noise abatement 2.0
Chemical pollution 1.2
367

Estimates are being prepared in Bonn as to how costly anti-pollution proposals would be. It has been calculated that between 1971 and 1975 as much as 38 milliard Marks would be needed in all to cover present proposals, 4.8 milliard Marks in 1971 rising to almost 11 milliard in 1975. Fifty per cent would be provided by state governments. The remainder by industrial organisations.

■ CINEMA

Independent film-producers set up central bureau to aid distribution

A new chapter will soon begin in the history of independent film production in the Federal Republic. Up to now a director, on finishing a film, has had to look frantically for a distributor or, failing this, has been forced to sell his film to a television company or himself rent it to cinemas.

Television usually pays less than the film costs and the profits made from renting the film privately to cinemas only allow one or two copies to be made.

Even those directors who find a distributor are in no better a position. Unless the film immediately becomes a box-office success, the firm does not bother much about it as the Film Promotion Law only takes notice of rapid success.

The paradox in film promotion in the Federal Republic up to now has been that film production was subsidised by the Ministry of the Interior, the Modern Film Board or television companies and that most of the films thus produced were consigned to the archives.

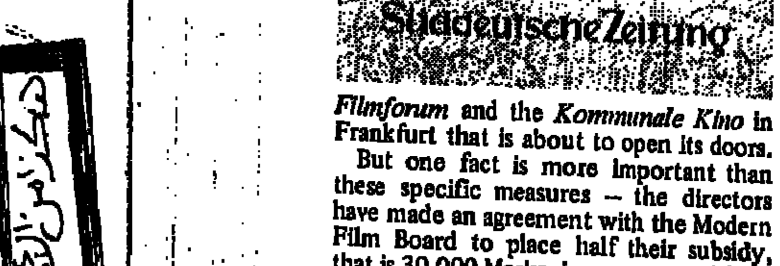
The Modern Film Board, a body to which the Federal states contribute 750,000 Marks a year, has now decided not only to back film production but also to pay for the distribution of films that have already been shot.

Seven directors or teams are each receiving 60,000 Marks for the distribution of one of their films: Rainer Werner Fassbinder for *Götter der Pest*, Roland Gall for *Wie ich ein Neger wurde*, Alexander Kluge for *Der grosse Verhau*, Horst Bienek for *Die Zelle*, Uwe Bradner for *Ich liebe dich, ich töte dich*, Edgar Reitz and Ula Stöckl for *Geschichten vom Kübelkind* and Theodor Kotulla for *Bis zum Happy-End*.

Two programmes of short films have been backed to the extent of 30,000 Marks each and three directors are each receiving 9,000 Marks for copies.

Eleven cinemas that have shown independently produced films are being supported financially with amounts varying from 10,000 to 50,000 Marks.

These include the *Arsenal* in Berlin, the *Abaton* in Hamburg, the *Arri* in Munich, Bremen's *Ostertor Cinema*, Duisburg's



Filmforum and the *Kommunale Kino* in Frankfurt that is about to open its doors.

But one fact is more important than these specific measures – the directors have made an agreement with the Modern Film Board to place half their subsidy, that is 30,000 Marks, in a communal fund and form a central coordinating bureau at the disposal of all films and not just the seven selected. The bureau will probably be set up in Munich.

Is this to be a distribution service for modern films? Plans are a little more modest than this at the time being but they are far-reaching compared with what distributors normally do for cinemas and the film industry.

The bureau is to publish a catalogue containing all films distributed by the director or producer as well as films produced by cooperative teams.

This catalogue must differ from the normal distribution brochures and contain comprehensive and accurate information on every film without providing any advertising that could could be thought of as dishonest by potential customers even if it was not.

This will not be easy as not everything that is produced independently can be recommanded. The compilers of the catalogue are not to be envied in their aim of not wanting to censor undeserving producers.

The catalogues must offer old films as well as the latest products. Usually the film industry only resurrects old films when they are box-office draws that will make a quick and easy profit or when one of the actors starring in them dies.

The bureau will have to cooperate with the distributors so as to gain access to the many good old films that are presently decaying in the archives.

Directors and the cinema-going public of the Federal Republic will only reach a new understanding of what the film can and should be if consideration is paid both to film history and the most important films of the present age.

The second important function of the bureau is to draw up a list of all cinemas likely to show these films. This survey must for example show the position and catchment area of a cinema, the composition of its regular audience and the composition of the local population, its potential audience.

By means of this list an individual director will be able to decide whether there is any sense in offering his film to a cinema, even for a matter of only one day or one week.

But the intelligence of audiences must not be underestimated as is now commonly the case. And resounding successes must not be expected from the word go.

The central bureau will not at first act as a distributor but will only help forge contacts between the cinemas and producers. Distribution will remain in the hands of the producers.

But the suspicion (or hope) in the film branch that the bureau will develop into a distribution service for independently-produced films in future is probably justified.

The suspicion arises from the fear felt by the conventional film industry for the newly growing competition. The hope comes from the belief that they may be relieved from their tedious duty of screening a good though difficult West German film in their cinemas from time to time to show that they do care about culture.

The term "conventional film industry" includes most distributors, the large city-centre cinemas and the cinema chains. Smaller cinemas and those lying on the periphery of the large cities have already announced their interest in the films to be offered by the bureau.

The subsidised cinemas now planned or already springing up in a number of places will also be important allies of [the] central bureau whether they are tiny f[ilm] clubs in rural areas or the audio-[visual] communication centres in the city.

A new chapter in the history of independently produced film in the Fede[ral] Republic? I think this is so, on [certain] conditions.

Firstly, matters must not be allowed [to] end when the money has been paid. Work must continue. Nobody can expect a public exposed in the last few years [to] pornographic films and cheap comedies to accept immediately works by Herzog, Fassbinder, Straub, Nestler, Kluge, Reitz, Schlöndorff, Hauff, Schroeter, Pr[aun]heim, Nekes, Dore O. Farocki, Bitom[sky] and others. Those organisers and financiers who do not exhibit the necessary patience should get out of the business before things start moving.

Secondly, once the central bureau has established contact between the film-makers and the cinema-going public the films will have to change.

They must not try to satisfy the general public taste, whatever that is, but they must have to take seriously the clearly recognisable wishes of various groups.

They could not do this in the past [as] the film industry had more or less severed them and their directors from the general public. It is however surprising how many items of importance and how many communicative films arose despite this isolation.

But if there is to be a true film culture in the Federal Republic the public will have to learn from the directors and the directors from the public.

Wilhelm Roth

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 September 1971)

Publishing house *dtv* celebrates ten years of success

Ten years ago the first white-jacketed volumes of the Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag (dtv) – number one was Heinrich Böll's *Irish Diary* – appeared on what was already being described as a saturated book market.

Hopes of attracting wide readership by maintaining a continually high standard met with scepticism at first. But up to now 415,000 copied of *Irish Diary* have been printed and this book only occupies fourth place in *dtv's* list of bestsellers.

In the ten years of its existence the Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag has published some 1,100 titles and sold over 45 million paperbacks. Seventy-five of the books have sold between 100,000 and 500,000 copies, including works by Goethe, James Joyce and Heinrich Mann. The 1970 annual turnover amounted to eleven million Marks.

The ten years have beeen a success story and the anniversary is worth celebrating. Success has not been achieved by pandering to the alleged demands of the mass of readers but by providing an ambious number of high-quality books.

Success seemed guaranteed by the names of the eleven publishing companies that combined in 1960 to set up a paperback series for their production.

These were *Artemis, Back und Biederstein, Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Hanser, Hegner, Insel* (who later left the group), *Klepenhauer & Witsch, Kösel, Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung, Piper* and *Walter*.

Today however it can scarcely be denied that the fortunate combination of high quality and success is largely due to the work of Heinz Firedrich who took over the leadership of *dtv* as a partner in the concern.

With his uncanny feeling for the sometimes unrecognised risks Heinz Friedrich has built up *dtv* to an independent publishing concern with an image of its own. *dtv* is synonymous with quality.

Apart from the high-quality modern literature it was the series of documents (with the first volume entitled *The Judgment of Nuremberg)* and the series of collected works published by *dtv* that demonstrated the concern's serious intention of competing with the already established paperback giants.

Looking back, this can be seen as a stroke of luck as it strengthened the trend towards increasing the standard of the range and printing more original works by showing that even greater success could be achieved in this way.

The first example of this was the paperback edition of Goethe's works running to 45 volumes. Paperback editions of Büchner, Kleist and Schiller soon followed.

In 1962 a special *dtv* series was begun for exclusive items of modern liturature. In 1964 *dtv* caused a near sensation with of its original publications when the first volume of the two-volume Atlas of World History appeared. A total of 495,000 copies of this work have now been printed and it is produced under licence in other European countries and the United States.

The first volume in a series of original publications on twentieth century history appeared in 1966. The same year Heinz Friedrich announced that a twenty-volume encyclopaedia would soon be published by the firm, thus setting in motion the flood of paperback encyclopaedias that has continued ever since, much the same way as the series of collected works caused a flood that has still not subsided today.

The first volume of the encyclopaedia sold 175,00 copies and each of the other volumes has sold 150,000.

In 1969 the broadly-based *dtv* science series began followed in 1971 by a series of books for the young produced in cooperation with ten publishers of children's books.

The latest innovation is a series of texts containing classical works of literature, science and philosophy. The first volumes

Hans Weigel
Lern dieses Volk der Hirten kennen
dtv

in this series are due in October this year. The *dtv* range grows and grows.

Mention must be made of the fact that 175 titles in the complete range are original publications and many of these are bestsellers with an acknowledged reputation.

Mention must be made of the fact that *dtv* itself always points to the contribution cover-designer Celestino Piatti has made toward its success, and rightly so. Piatti has given *dtv* its unmistakable and ever-attractive optical image.

Mention must also be made of the fact that the continually growing range – at least fifteen new titles a month are planned in future – sometimes provides grounds for the anxiety that growth could degenerate into inflation.

But this is obviously an extremely subjective feeling. In the ten years of its existence the total number of books sold by *dtv* correspond to the total number of the literate population here. Fear of over-production need not disturb the festive mood.

Heinrich Vormweg

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1971)

■ THEATRE

Peter Weiss's latest play *Hölderlin* opens in Stuttgart

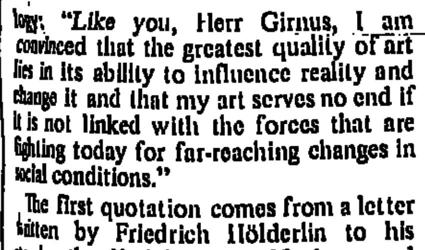
Peter Weiss' *Hölderlin*, premiered in Stuttgart's Württembergisches Staatstheater on 19 September, contains a dramatic conflict that is old yet ever pertinent.

On the one side there is the poet who considers revolution as a means to change the world. On the other side is society opposing any such upheaval.

On the one side there is the truth of the words penned by a feather quill or tapped out on a typewriter. On the other side there is the reality of political life which words can only change after a long and uncertain process, if then, while acts of violence promise quicker and greater success.

What can the poet do in this position? He can hope for future effect: "We live in an age where everything is heading towards better days. The germ of Enlightenment, the silent wishes and efforts of individuals to educate Mankind will spread and increase and bear magnificent fruit. See, dear Karl, this is what my heart hangs on. This is the sacred aim of my desires and activity – that I plant in our age the seeds that will ripen in the future."

Otherwise, he can declare his solidarity with political practicians of similar ideo-



logy: "Like you, Herr Girnus, I am convinced that the greatest quality of art lies in its ability to influence reality and change it and that my art serves no end if it is not linked with the forces that are fighting today for far-reaching changes in social conditions."

The first quotation comes from a letter written by Friedrich Hölderlin to his step-brother Karl Gok in 1793, the second is taken from a latter written by Peter Weiss to East German politician Wilhelm Girnus in 1965.

Peter Weiss' Hölderlin, a figure of the theatre and yet no product of the imagination, states:

Nichts kann bescheiden
und zufrieden sein
eh nicht die ungeheuren Forderungen
auf Umbruch der Gesellschaft
sich Gehör erzwingen.

(Nothing can be modest or content until the mighty demands for a change in society gain a hearing.)

Peter Weiss' play consists of two acts each with four scenes and prologue and epilogue and is already considered to be the most important new German-language drama this season. Even before Peter Palitzsch's Stuttgart production fifteen other theatres had decided to stage is later in the year.

The audience at the premiere honoured the high estimation in which *Hölderlin* is held by theatre directors by providing loud and lengthy applause both for the production and the playwright himself.

The success was deserved. Since his *Marat/Sade* drama seven years ago Peter Weiss had been unable to produce any other play so rich in poetry and imagination.

Peter Weiss' work in drawing public attention to Auschwitz, Angola and Vietnam in his documentary dramas must not be underestimated but the playwright's particular ability of combining clear mind, critical verve, reverie and madness of soul into one great poetical picture could not unfold in these works as it does in *Hölderlin*.

The new play is a continuation of *Marat* both formally and thematically. Formally, because of the narrative function of a singer mediating between stage and auditorium, the alternation of doggerel rhymes and free verse and the simultaneous action on several temporal levels.

Thematically, because of the reflections on the relationship between political Utopia and historical reality that are based on the French Revolution and its effect on Europe.

This is where Peter Weiss once again fulfils his duty of enlightenment. Germany, with its authoritarian delusions and nationalist bias, long refused to recognise a fact that scholars of German, especially Frenchman Pierre Bertaux, have only revealed.

The fact playwright Weiss now reveals to the general public is that Hölderlin, supposedly a seer who pursued his visions in Classical remoteness, was in fact a Republican, a poet who expressed his revolutionary message in Greek disguise and a man involved in the contemporary world attacking the political, social and literary establishment of Württemberg, Hesse and Weimar.

"The new league of intellectuals cannot live in a vacuum, the sacred theocracy of the beautiful must dwell in a free state situated on Earth and this place we shall certainly conquer," Hölderlin wrote in *Hyperion*.

This and a further quote taken from a letter to his sister – "Pray for the French, the champions of human rights" – have always been ignored up to now or never taken seriously.

Playwrights of the present age shy away from resurrecting historical figures with aesthetic means. But Weiss does not share this faintheartedness either in *Hölderlin* or *Marat/Sade*.

Apart from Hölderlin himself, Schiller and Goethe and philosophers Hegel, Schelling and Fichte appear on stage. And why not? Because of their stylised language they appear as artificial figures and typical representatives of their age and generation.

Goethe and Schiller showed what liberties a writer of historical dramas could take. Weiss admits without further ado that, to heighten the dramatic conflict, he has intensified the differences between the two poets and three philosophers on the one hand and on the other hand Hölderlin, who remains faithful to his belief in the necessity of revolution.

Peter Weiss shows good taste in sparing the audience the sight of Hölderlin writing his *Hälfte des Lebens* – people must not look over an artist's shoulder as he works.

We first see Hölderlin as a 23-year-old scholar in Tübingen where enthusiasm for the French Revolution leads him and fellow-students Hegel, Schelling and others to express boldly their opposition to the aristocracy.

We accompany him to Jena where his arguments with Goethe and Schiller end disastrously in mutual misunderstanding and his meeting with the hypocritical and half-hearted preacher of revolution, Fichte, ends in disappointment.

We meet him again in Frankfurt where he is acting as tutor to the Gontards, as he had once been tutor to the Kalbs in Waltershausen, and feeling humiliated because of his dependence on the narrow-minded bourgeoisie.

The first act ends with a canon:

Und immer weiter steigt der Curs
an unserer Burs

(Share prices continue to rise on the stock exchange) sung by a choir of early capitalists who are proud of what they possess.

The gap between the two parts of the play denotes the decisive turning-point in the hero's life. It is true at the beginning of the second act we are acquainted with Hölderlin's relevance to the society of the time when he interprets his *Empedocles* drama, involving the symbolic sacrifice of an idealist, as a warning to his age.

Peter Weiss in his turn uses a number of linguistics allusions, such as the word *macheta*, to show Empedocles as a precursor of the Che Guevara-type revolutionaries of our age.

But Hölderlin's attempt to make himself understood proves vain and loneliness begins to come upon him. The last two scenes in the play show him in a Tübingen hospital and then in a lunatic asylum as a person somewhat divorced from normality. It is hard to say with certainty whether Hölderlin's madness is not perhaps an intentional flight from the world.



Peter Weiss

(Photo: Archiv/Heinz Köster)

A young editor of the *Rheinische Zeitung* visits the poet in his asylum and grants him that the analysis of the concrete historical situation is not the only factor in preparing for far-reaching changes:

Der andere Weg ist
die visionäre Formung
tiefster persönlicher Erfahrung

(The other way is the visionary moulding of deepest personal experience)

Only when the sick man's nurse addresses the friendly young man with "Herr Marx" do we realise that Peter Weiss has departed from his otherwise painstakingly accurate faithfulness to the historical authenticity of Hölderlin's life story for the sake of a liberally extended understanding of Marxism.

Like *Marat/Sade* (which admittedly is more effective because of its repeated outbreaks into theatrical paroxysmus), *Hölderlin* is basically an elegy, a melancholy, but also ironic and sarcastic lamentation of a great thinking individual who is unable to act great.

As a stage work it offers a wide number of possible interpretations. The mood can be one of resignation or of aggression but it is best to have a balance of the two.

With Karl Kneidl's stage design, Peter Palitzsch's production in Stuttgart on the surface approaches the ideal – an aesthetically strict and finely stylised framework for characteristic brutal and realistic details – but is unable to detach itself from the powerful effects of irony.

The production if painstaking in its correctness, which can only be of benefit when a play is produced for the first time, but it is a little too painstaking.

The student demonstration in Tübingen remains harmless. There should be more inhibition expressed in the scene set in the home of the Kalbs' where patriarchial arrogance and sexual frustration meet at close quarters. The Empedocles vision lacks the illuminating power and simplicity necessary to show the perspective ranging from the fabulous past to the immediate present.

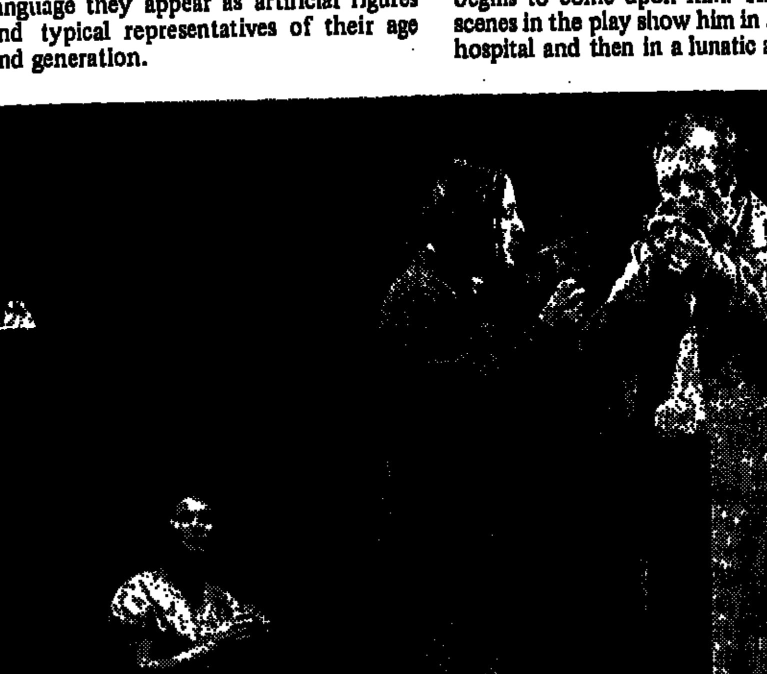
But Palitzsch does give an excellently reserved treatment to the garden party in Jakob Gontard's Adlerflychtschem Hof in Frankfurt and much of its corrosive effect is due to its gentleness.

Hölderlin's grotesque position as a helplessly dependent tutor who is perplexed by the world of Gontard and his money-making friends on the one side and the excited birdlike flutterings of Susette-Diotima on the other is amusingly followed by a merry Rococo divertimento by a choir of jobbers celebrating a boom.

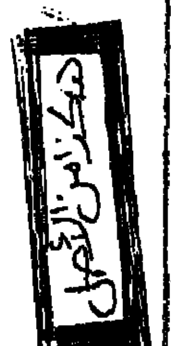
Günther Grack

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 September 1971)





A scene from the Stuttgart production of Hölderlin (Photo: Madeline Winkler-Betzendahl)




■ EDUCATION

University planning demands considerable attention to detail and requirements

Hans Leussink, the Minister of Education and Science, is right when he says: "We have now experienced a short period of planning euphoria after years of hostility toward planning. We are now beginning to achieve that objectivity necessary for success."

This necessary objectivity also appears in the work on university planning edited by Professor Linde of the Central Archives for University Building in Stuttgart.

This four-volume work of which three volumes have now appeared is the first attempt of building planners in this country to describe the whole difficult field of university planning and contribute towards the study of university administration.

Hochschulplanung (University Planning). Edited by Horst Linde. Published by Werner Verlag, Düsseldorf. Three volumes, Price per volume: 50 Marks.

The work is necessary as university building is still surrounded by mystery. Few universities investigate what demand for space there is within their walls. Few universities can say whether staff, space and equipment are being used to the best possible effect.

Analyses of the space situation have only just begun. Obviously, these will be closely linked to the question of demand.

How much space does a chemistry student need for example, not just in the laboratory but also in the other rooms of his department, in the administrative building, in libraries, lecture rooms and workshops?

The pioneer work in this field has been done by the Central Archives in Stuttgart. It is this body that is to be thanked for removing the veil of mystery from the socio-technical aspects of the university systems.

The first volume of the work is devoted mainly to the history of universities. The first section shows how the university developed from the high schools of mediaeval times through the Renaissance, the Reformation, Counter-Reformation and Enlightenment to the Berlin University based on the ideas of the Prussian Minister Wilhelm von Humboldt.

The second section deals with the structural picture of the university in the course of time, ranging from the Universitas magistrorum et scholarium, a corportion of teachers and pupils, to the academic factories of the twentieth century.

The third part deals with the position of universities abroad and international trends in university development and planning.

The final section of the first volume turns to the German university and the history of its reforms from Humboldt's momentous article *On the Internal and External Organisation of the Institutes of Higher Education in Berlin* to the university reform plans of the sixties.

Volume two focuses on issues of structural and building planning. It deals with university administration, the regulation of teaching and research spheres with integrated systems of information and methods of planning according to requirements. One section is concerned with the planning of institutes for medical research and training.

Volume three discusses the structural aspects of micro-planning, describing the qualitative characteristics of rooms and areas according to purpose and mentioning the problems of standardisation.

Standardisation is on the one hand the harmonisation of requirements, building techniques and planning processes and on the other hand a setting of norms in university construction so as to allow assembly-line production of prefabricated buildings.

The aim of standarisation is a decrease in the costs involved in both construction and operation and a reduction of the time taken between the initial planning stage and the final handing-over ceremony.

The authors of the work manage to give a clear survey of this complicated subject. Praise must be given to the formal organisation of the volumes and the pictures and diagrams contained within them.

In view of the discussion about comprehensive universites, attention should be drawn to the section of volume one dealing with university planning in the United States.

Proposals to adopt a comprehensive university system in West Germany have been put forward ever since the mid-sixties. But the United States has long had comprehensive universities like New York State University or the University of California.

A reader might have expected this book would have discussed the pro[illegible] and results of the change-over [illegible] isolated universities of varying size to a comprehensive system in view [illegible] plans to this effect in the Federal Republic.

But this unfortunately does not [illegible]. The whole section on comprehensive universities is rather scanty. One [illegible]tion must also be made. The statement that the Weizsäcker Plan abolishes [illegible]mas incorrect. The draft plan for a "[illegible]ing-block comprehensive university" [illegible] provide for academic certificates.

In view of the current argument [illegible] how integrated future universities should be, it is useful to read Peter [illegible] article in volume two on the "Stimulus of Integration".

This article will help douse a lot of the euphoria surrounding the question [illegible] integration. It would indeed be fateful [illegible] put into practice the theory that integrated operations were more economical without examining it more closely.

Politicians and planners dealing with universities should also keep something else in mind: "Integration should not [illegible] aimed at merely to stimulate the inter[illegible] disciplinary discussion between academics. If academics have nothing to say to each other, this will not be changed by putting them in the same room. On the other hand if they are of scientific importance to each other they will certainly meet even if separated by a distance of thousands of miles."

Dieter Mohl[illegible]

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

Science Ministry tries to cut back the number of advisory councils

Critics of the West German social system have always looked upon the Ministry of Education and Science as a political-industrial complex.

The number of advisory committees, 38 in all, seemed to be proof of an increased spread of a State and economic bureaucracy that the public could not survey in entirety and that the Bundestag could no longer control.

The problems of "adviseritis" were seen when Christian Democrat Gerhard Stoltenberg, the former Minister of Scientific Research, set up an *Advisory Committee for Research Policy* that shied away from public gaze, distinguished itself by a high degree of ineffectiveness but always roused suspicions that it was inadmissably mixing public and economic interests.

After months of indecision Science Minister Hans Leussink has now replaced this "secret science Cabinet", as Social Democrat member Wiechert called it, with a new body, the *Advisory Committee for Education and Science.*

Influential permanent committees like the *Atomic Commission* or the *Specialist Council for Data Processing* have been wound up and replaced by more tightly organised specialist committees.

Leussink hopes that these new committees will contain more young advisers who have not yet risen to the top positions in industry or education than has previously been the case. The Minister's views on this subject cannot be dismissed if there is to be an efficient advisory service.

Whether making the committees younger will also make them more independent is another question. Where powerful interests are involved experience has shown that there is little difference whether interest groups exert their influence through professors of long standing or through young intellectuals who are rising to the top.

The only opportunity to control the process is via the public though even this is difficult to implement.

But things are to change here too. Contrary to previous practice, the composition and recommendations of the advisory committees will be published annually in future.

The Science Ministry is therefore the first government ministry to try and prune the number of advisory councils. These total 264 at present, some of them dating back to 1900.

Hans Leussink, as Minister responsible for technology, needs advice more than any other minister. Everything depends on his advisers' efficiency.

No answer has yet been given to the questions of the importance of research policy control apparatus for social services policy.

The various members of the advisory groups will be appointed *ad personam* but notice will be taken of their role in industry or education.

Whether or not they will rise above their particular interests will not be witnessed until the new committees first turn to the controversial questions of research and education policy.

Forcing them to consider the common good is once again the task of the Minister and a challenge to his skill.

Udo Bergdoll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1971)

■ MEDICINE

Doctors and scientists discuss in Berlin television's harmful effects

Can watching television impair a person's health? Are there diseases that specifically attack TV viewers? Doctors and physicists at the International Radio and Television Exhibition in Berlin believed that they had the answers.

A group of doctors from Heidelberg measured the difference of coronary activity in patients with blood pressure before and after watching television.

Various live broadcasts, crime films and other exciting programmes caused the pulse-beat to rise considerably, leading to palpitations. The heart often beat as many as 179 times a minute while even the exertions of a half-mile walk only cause the heart to beat 140 times a minute.

Specialists therefore recommend patients suffering from high blood pressure to avoid watching television programmes that could cause them excitement.

Professor Ludwig Demling of Erlangen, a specialists in digestive and metabolic diseases, measured patients' stomach acid as they watched television.

The amount increases with the tension and stress caused by the programme. Increased acidity can lead to stomach or intestinal ulcers, Professor Demling stressed.

Frankfurter Rundschau

Increased acidity also causes hunger pangs leading the viewer to eat more than he needs. Beer and other alcoholic drinks increase the number of calories consumed. People who nibble at nuts while watching television also consume extra calories and put on extra weight.

Professor Demling warns people against eating too much and sitting too long in front of the screen. As well as stomach ulcers, heart complications and obesity, this can cause damage to the spinal cord, phlebitic complaints and headaches. The flickering of the television picture can also cause slight epileptic fits.

Professor Herbert Schober of Munich, a specialist in optics, states that the conjunctivitis caused by watching too much television is due to strain on the eyes. He recommends viewers to wear proper spectacles, if required, and to do exercises during programme intervals.

Orthopaedist Hanns Schoberth of Frankfurt said that viewers should for heath reasons move about more when watching television. Pains in the shoulder and neck can be avoided by having a proper chair for watching television, one which has arm rests.

To prevent disturbing the circulation of the blood in the legs and the risk of phlebitic complaints, the chair must enable the viewer to keep his legs in a horizontal position. Professor Schoberth said that the main cause of television diseases was sitting wrongly.

But turning to the television set itself, where should it stand in a room and how should it be made? Professor Hüllemann and Dr Ruslow pointed out that the imperfections of the television picture were inherent in the system.

Screen distance

People should sit between six and eight feet from the screen, straight in front of it and not at an angle. This distance should be five to six times the height of the screen (usually about sixteen to twenty-one inches). The viewer's chair should be about eighteen inches from the ground. When the screen is smaller, the distances involved can be reduced.

Does a television set emit harmful radiation such as X-rays? Physicists Kessel and Nitschke were commissioned by the Ministry of Health to find out.

There are three possible sources of radiation in a television set – the rectifier with its high voltage, the ballast triode and the screen itself. It is possible for a set to emit harmful radiation.

But all new television sets are built according to the specifications of the ICAP. Protection against radiation in this country is guaranteed by the VDE specifications.

There are however no norms govering the repair of television sets and exports point out that it is here that sources of radiation could be opened up.

Otto Tappen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 September 1971)

Marburg plans centre for spastic children

Marburg, the surrounding local district, the Health Bureau and the Society for the Care of Spastic and Physically Handicapped Children plan to build a spastic centre in the Ockershausen area of the city in the spring of 1972.

Dr Burghard Vilmar, the Society Chairman, announced in Marburg that the first stage of building programme would cost 200,000 Marks.

The centre will contain two rooms for looking after spastic children in a general way and two special departments for physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

An advisory centre for spastics has been set up the city health authorities. Dr Kurt Roderich Nittner, the head of the health authorities there, stated that one of the most important functions of the advisory centre was to catch the disease in its early stages and provide a plan of cure.

All children thought to be in danger will be examined in the first few months after their birth even if they show no symptoms of spasticity. The advisory centre is headed by Dr Exner, a lady specialist.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 September 1971)

Behring produce serum to overcome rejection in transplant surgery

After years of research the Behring works, Marburg, have developed an anti-serum for lymphocytes, the first preparation of its type not to contain antibodies.

It will be available to transplant centres throughout the world and is to be called Anti-Human-Lymphocyte Globulin, a spokesman stated.

It will lead to a considerable reduction in the dangers accompanying transplant operations, especially kidney transplants.

The success of a transplant depends on whether doctors manage to suppress the body's immunological defence mechanisms against the foreign organ.

The lymphocytes that are part of this mechanism reject the transplanted organ if their activity cannot be controlled in time.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 September 1971)

Cancer prevention scheme wins majority support

Hannoversche Presse

Since the beginning of July this year medical insurance schemes have been obliged to cover medical examinations for women above 30 and men over 45 as part of the cancer prevention programme.

An opinion poll conducted by the Infas Institute of Bad Godesberg reveals that the majority of the people in this country approve of the step.

The report now issued was based on the answers of more than a thousand adults living in the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

Ninety-two per cent of all those interviewed considered the free anti-cancer examinations to be an important innovation in the social security system.

Only four per cent described them as irrelevant. Four per cent refused to comment. Elderly people were more hesitant in their opinion than the younger people covered by the poll.

The importance of these preventive examinations are stressed on all sides.

People do not just think of the service as valuable but they also want to take advantage of the opportunities offered them.

Only six per cent refused to have anything to do with the scheme for fear of finding they have cancer. Eighty-six per cent have no such fears. They want to take advantage of the service to have a free examination every year so that any incidence of cancer can be arrested in its initial stages.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 15 September 1971)

Health Ministry examines smallpox question

The Ministry of Health is currently examining the question of whether the innoculation of babies against smallpox should remain compulsory.

A Health Ministry spokesman stated that the Federal Health Council has been asked to investigate the problem and submit a report.

The World Health Organisation in Geneva has stated that innoculation against smallpox could be suspended in developing countries without any danger to the rest of the population.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 September 1971)

Subterranean hospitals opened in civil defence programme

Lower Saxony's Ministry of Social Security plans a network of auxiliary hospitals, some of them underground, and well-stocked pharmaceutical depots to ensure that the public can be given medical care and attention in the event of a disaster.

Work has just begun in Walsrode on building the largest and most modern reserve hospital in the Federal Republic with six hundred beds and a staff of two hundred. Other Federal states are expected to follow Lower Saxony's lead.

The term "auxiliary hospital" is rather misleading as it suggests a barracks of converted school rooms. But the hospital buildings now planned for the area between the Harz mountains and the North Sea, most of them set deep in the ground under schools, are an unsurpassed contribution towards civil defence.

Plans now on view in the Ministry for a hospital of this type in Zeven are extremely impressive. The hospital will have operating theatres, X-ray departments, a large number of beds, rooms for the staff and its own generator and ventilation system.

A few hours is all it takes for the hospital to be put into full operation and it is then independent of the outside world for at least three weeks.

This and special decontamination measures against atomic, biological and chemical weapons show that provision has been made for the worst possible disasters.

The Hanover Ministry stresses however that the main aim of the system is to provide medical care and attention in the event of an emergency. Lower Saxony can point to a painful experience in the recent past – the 1962 flood disaster.

Two of the emergency hospitals are already ready. The one in Syke can accommodate 500 patients and between 120 and 130 staff. Six hundred beds are available in the subterranean hospital in Bentheim and sixteen beds for post-surgery patients deeper underground.

The hospitals at Zeven and Oedeme near Lüneburg are currently being built. Work on the largest hospital so far, that at Walsrode, has just begun and further projects are planned at Dissen near Osnabrück, at Oldenburg, Stade, Bederkesa, Hildesheim, Peine and Salzgitter.

The auxiliary hospitals planned for Wilhelmshaven and Sonderbusch will be built on the surface behind thick bunker walls because of the damp nature of the soil.

Hanover is a special case. The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior in Bonn have decided to use the barrack facilities around the city in the event of an emergency. The medical care of soldiers and civilians can then be combined, following the example of Denmark.

As well as the subterranean hospitals there will be a network of eight medical camps to the east and west of the River Weser. These depots will contain medicaments and instruments ranging from pills to X-ray equipment that can be issued at any time without the help of experts.

These auxiliary hospitals will not be put into mothballs as soon as they are built, as various newspapers claim. They will be used to train the medical staff that may be needed to run them in future.

Bonn is financing the scheme. Five million Marks are being allocated to Lower Saxony every year to pay the costs of building and equipping the hospitals.

Wolfgang Scholber

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 10 September 1971)

■ FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Exporters are unabashed at currency policy vagaries

This country's exporters have now had to live for over five months with the upward floating of the Mark and have withstood the first thirty days of America's import tax, which runs contrary to the code of free world trade.

It is not correct to say that the dark clouds that gathered over West German exports when both measures were introduced have dispersed but the "weather" forecasts are not so unfavourable now.

The opportunities for this country's exporters on foreign markets are now being gauged more realistically than they were in the not-so-distant past.

Nevertheless despite the general feeling of relief it must not be forgotten that certain individual branches of the economy have been hit very hard by both the Mark upvaluation and America's protectionist moves.

In-coming contracts and orders from abroad in the months of May, June and July (exact figures for trading in more recent months are not yet available) did in fact drop by two per cent compared with the first months of this year.

But these figures were still six per cent up compared with the corresponding period of last year. Even so, when the level of price increases is taken into account the real growth over the year was no more than one and a half per cent.

Following the two previous revaluations of the Mark, in March 1961 and October 1969, orders from abroad also declined.

But one of the main reasons for this was that as soon as there was talk about the parity of the Mark and it seemed likely that a step had to be taken to readjust currency policies foreign purchasers of West German goods were quick to step in and make their orders before the Mark could be upvalued so as to take advantage of a favourable rate of exchange before it was too late.

As a result of this orders naturally declined following the revaluation, but later they recovered. The increase in cost of West German products as a result of the upvaluing of the Mark cut back our exports for a year after revaluation in 1961, whereas in 1969 it was only over a short term that an effect was noticeable statistically.

The reason for this was that the rate of inflation in countries which are the Federal Republic's best customers were even more marked than here and the price-raising effect of the revaluation was quickly levelled out.

But the decline in the number of orders from abroad this summer is due not only to currency policy reasons. In addition to this there is the stagnation that has affected many of the countries that place large orders with the Federal Republic.

However, some of our most important trading partners abroad have embarked on a policy of expansion in their economic policies.

This is a step that has been most marked in the United States. President Nixon is now flat out for success or bust, especially as the presidential elections are coming up again next year.

But the move towards expansion applies just as much to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. As soon as these countries have got their programme of reflation into swing the Federal Republic's exporters will be able to enjoy a part of the increased demand.

By means of measures taken in the Federal Republic alone our competitiveness could be increased. If the degree of wage and salary increases achieved by workers and their unions were to be lower than that of last year there would be less pressure on the cost side. This would improve the chances of West German products abroad.

The sales potential and the competitiveness of our exporters are in the near future not so bleak after all.

Nevertheless on the currency policy scene the sense of uncertainty continues unabated. Even after the meeting of the Group of Ten (the ten most important industrial nations in the free world) it was not possible to say how quickly this uncertainty would be swept aside.

But the governments involved have announced their intent to return to fixed parities as soon as this is feasible. This presumably means that there will be new parities which level out the differences in purchasing power of the different countries' currencies.

Washington must also be interested in the outcome of this. The Americans' new import tax surcharge may help to keep imports down, but it does nothing to boost exports.

A realignment of parities which would remove the overvaluation of the dollar would achieve both in one fell swoop.

The fixing of parities again would, if it avoided overvaluing or undervaluing any of the currencies, create greater security for the exporter. But if the process of calming down the international monetary situation is to be longer lasting than it has been in the past a more flexible solution must be found.

At any rate a realignment of parities means that much of the data used by the West German economy must be altered considerably. For we must assume that any realignment will involve an upvaluation of the Mark.

This puts the pressure on companies in this country since access to our markets by foreign companies is made easier, while exporters in this country are faced with yet another hurdle to surmount.

When the undervaluation of the Mark has been removed our involvement abroad will at any rate prove more lucrative. Companies will be more readily prepared to open up subsidiaries abroad to cash in on any advantages such as lower wages.

This is a tendency that should prove highly favourable for West German exporters since the more highly developed a country is, the greater is the degree of trade with it.

This is of course a consideration for the longer term, but there is another reason for having faith in the strength of the West German economy. Prices are naturally an important factor in the popularity of a country's exports, but not the only factor.

Our industry has achieved its high reputation in the world through the quality and technical sophistication of its products. In addition to this there is the flexibility and adaptability of our men who work on the foreign markets.

Factors such as this are not affected by the vagaries of monetary policies. They are another reason why our exporters can face the future with confidence.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, 20 September 1971)

International currency mess fogs exporters' spectacles

Those engaged in trade with other countries are more than a little unsure of themselves. Currency policies and trade policies can no longer be treated separately. But when currency experts play poker nobody is allowed to see anyone else.

Nobody wants escalation. But who knows what lies round the corner tomorrow? For exporters who are forced to plan over a long term uncertainty of this kind can be fatal. America could for instance start a policy of export boosting or give even more teeth to discrimination against imported capital-investment goods.

Economic nationalism is lurking around the corner. "Buy American" appeals are gaining ground and beginning to take effect. Protected industries are beginning to find the going much easier.

It is only a matter of time before economies of European countries demand to be given assistance. Canada has already taken steps to protect its economy, helping those most directly hit with subsidies so that the unemployment quota does not rise any further.

The Americans have a decisive role to play in the matter of unravelling the complications of the present currency and economics mess. Just how tough are their demands in effect?

The more the solution to the currency problem approaches a multilateral massive revaluation of currencies the less will be Washington's attacks on European Economic Community trade policies.

The less substantial and ineffectual solutions to the currency problem are on the other side the more likely it will be that we will face new crises of a similar kind within a few years.

Europe may not make a decisive step forward for as long as the Americans are suffering from a serious imbalance of payments.

Economic as well as political considerations play a major role in the reserved attitude adopted by Professor Schiller when the Council of Ministers in Brussels was arriving at its decision. The Bonn government, it was stated at a Concerted Action meeting, can afford least of all countries a worldwide decline into controlled economies with its great involvement over a wide area in foreign trade.

According to the industrialists the first essential is to remove burdens from and give assistance to the United States, the Confederation of Federal Republic Industries warns.

Now, how can we encourage the Americans to remove their trade restrictions?

The joint action of the EEC countries, which was toned down at the last minute, could be considered the first step in this direction. The Community has certainly not said its last word, Professor Schiller stated in an attempt at appeasement. The ECC joint action amounts to a hand proferred to the Americans.

The Americans, viewing the actions taken by the Federal Republic objectively, should recognise that the revaluation of 1969 and the extent to which the present floating of the Mark has gone has made a decisive contribution to the general overall solution that the United States has been calling for.

It would be easy to come to the conclusion that the Americans are satisfied with this. They regard the Federal Republic and Japan as their main competitors. As far as the French are concerned they have fought their way to a satisfactory understanding.

Fortunately American exports to the EEC increased last year by 21 per cent, a higher figure than for US exports to any other part of the world.

Therefore the Americans should consider coming to terms with Tokyo a satisfactory outcome to their problem. However they are not satisifed with the floating that has been put into effect there. This has amounted to an upvaluation of the yen by just five or six per cent, which goes only half way towards the Americans' demands.

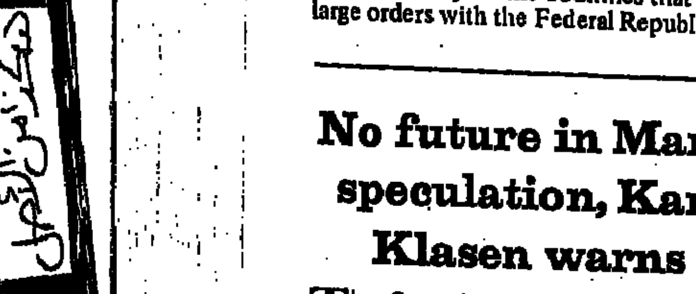
Thus they expect Europe to exercise its influence on Japan in this connection. Japanese experts have been to the OECD in Paris. They are also expected to carry out talks in other capitals with the aim of sounding out the situation. At these talks the European attitude to the main problems of the day will be the centre of attention.

Is the steel exporter to be doubly punished by voluntary restrictions and additional import duties? The working group of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) plans to meet a second time to discuss this topic.

Side-effects of the worldwide dispute affecting trade are an appendage of the currency calamity. The Americans only played out their trade trump to pick up the other trumps at the currency table. Only when solutions that are generally acceptable to all concerned have been worked out will the mists clear and the way ahead for foreign traders be visible.

Joseph Maria Hunck

(Handelsblatt, 20 September 1971)



No future in Mark speculation, Karl Klasen warns

The Central Bank Committee of the Bundesbank at a recent meeting failed to reach any decisions on credit policies. Bank President Karl Klasen did, however, tell journalists that it would be possible for the Bank to make such decisions in the near future. But for the time being it was essential, in his opinion, to await the results of the International Monetary Fund AGM.

When considering whether there should be a drastic change of direction in cash and credit policies the Bundesbank would base its decisions first and foremost on domestic economic aims, Klasen stated.

He added that this country has done its bit towards protecting international economic interests by floating the Mark and can now concentrate on attacking price rises on the home front.

As far as price stability is concerned, said Herr Klasen, we must bear in mind that the inflationary mentality which has been rife in the Federal Republic persists. This is particularly true of government spending. Inflationary tendencies should not be encouraged by lowering interest rates, the Bundesbank President stated.

Commenting on the intervention of the Bundesbank on the currency exchange market Herr Klasen said that there was no intention of sticking to a fixed dollar parity. But in the interests of industry for one thing the exchange rate should not be allowed to go on sinking ad infinitum. The Federal Republic did not want to take a lone stand in leaving the rate of the dollar to its own devices and the state of the market.

On the other hand the Bank wanted to make it quite clear that it was not basically out to hold itself aloof from the state of the market. The Bundesbank's intervention was aimed against unusual rumours and speculation that had nothing to do with floating.

He summed up: "If anyone still thinks he can make a quick Mark killing he has underestimated us."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 September 1971)

■ INDUSTRY

Düsseldorf show highlights utility of plastics

There are unlikely to be any major new additions of basically different kinds of plastics for widespread general use in the near future. But the various basic kinds of plastic already developed can be further "bred" to give materials with different qualities.

At present polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics yield over fifty different kinds of material which can me put to a multitude of uses. The basic types are modified as required for making such diverse items as wheels for the workings of a watch, for which the material has to be as hard as steel, or foam fillings for cushions, where the plastic has to be soft and pliant.

Plastics in their hardest forms are now used as buildings materials for modern constructions. Yet they can be elastic and used for components of cars. They can be as clear as glass for making optical lenses or foil for packaging, or they can be coloured with all the hues that go to make up the trendy Pop world – ideal for children's toys or brightening up the kitchen utensils cupboard.

They can be realiably stable for use as tanks, to carry central heating oil for instance. As crash barriers on autobahns plastics can be tough, but with enough give to soak up the force of impact without hurtling a car back on to the road.

A comprehensive look at the world of plastics was given by the exhibition *K' 71* in Düsseldorf (*K* for *Kunststoff* – plastics). This exhibition which is held once every four years christened the new fair-grounds in Düsseldorf.

About one thousand exhibitors from 21 different countries put their goods on show in the twelve halls and gave the new fair centre an impressive send-off. Some exhibits were also on show in the open on the fair-ground. The whole exhibition was an informative showcase of the manufacture, processing and usage of plastics.

There were some particularly interesting developments to be seen in the way of foam plastics and we can expect further advances in this direction, espcially as virtually all known polymers can bemade into foam by one process or another.

Soft foam plastics are being used to an ever greater extent in mattresses and upholstery and lately their application has been spread to fillings for car seats; and harder foams can be used as insulation material in refrigeration plant. Foam plastics between plastic covered sheet steel make an ideal material for prefabricated building sections. And foam plastics are finding new applications in the manufacture of sporting equipment and many other similar spheres.

Semi-hard foam plastics which are covered with a massive outer skin as they are produced are today an indispensible part of automobile manufacturing.

While the world production of plastics has increased by one third in the past four years, that is to say since *K '67* the rate of increase in the Federal Republic has been one and a half times.

In 1970 4,320,000 tons of plastics were produced, 1,750,000 tons were exported and 820,000 tons were imported. Plastics have now moved into the category of one of the essential elements of human life along with iron, soap or paper as calculated on a per capita usage basis.

Apparently the Federal Republic was ahead of even Japan and the United States from the point of view of consumption of plastics per capita. West Germans use 55 kilograms of plastics each while the Japanese use forty kilograms and the United States only 39 kilograms.

Miniature pumps in plastic balls with small windows so that the pumps can be seen were displayed by one exhibitor at the Düsseldorf plastics fair. (Photo: dpa)

But these statistics are deceptive. The figures for domestic consumption include the amount of plastics and plastic goods manufactured for export, which is particularly high in the Federal Republic.

Plastics have now reached a high percentage of the production and output of our chemical industrie. At *Bayer* dye works for instance the proportion of "chemical materials" (polyurethane, plastics and caoutchouc) has grown so far that is has now become one quarter of the turnover, amounting to 2,500 million Marks.

Bayer has cornered about one third of the world production of polyurethane raw materials – over one million tons in 1970 – and in the production of synthetic India-rubber the *Bayer* group plans to increase its capacity to about 600,000 tons per annum by 1975.

BASFF increased its turnover in plastics in 1970 by twelve per cent to 1,900 million Marks. This amounted to eighteen per cent of the total turnover of the *Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik* group. In all 1,300,000 tons of synthetic materials were produced.

Between 1961 and 1970 *BASF* invested over two milliard Marks in plastics and at present 22 per cent of the allocation for research is devoted to development of plastics.

Farbwerke Hoechst is expecting a turnover of 1,100 million Marks in its plastics division for the current year. In the past year eight per cent of the company's turnover was in this sphere. The amount of these plastics destined for export was 54 per cent.

Hoechst devoted about 56 million Marks to research and development in the plastics sphere in 1970 and throughout the seventies expects to increase this amount by six per cent per annum.

Chemische Werke Hüls have all but doubled their turnover in plastics since *K '67* and it is about 550 million Marks at the present moment. This is about 41 per cent of the company's total production. *Hüls* is Europe's greatest producer of PVC turning out 260,000 tons per year. At the present moment its production capacity is running at about ninety to 95 per cent usage.

Growth in volume is not alone satisfying if at the same time profits are being cut back. All the major producers of plastics were agreed at the Düsseldorf fair that prices would have to climb in the near future.

Up till now the major advances made in production processes and the changeover to large-scale mass-production have made it possible to keep prices low or even cut them.

While the prices for other materials such as metals and glass rose by seventy and 33 per cent respectively, leather became sixteen per cent more expensive and wood for woodworking increased by twelve per cent, plastics became on average 27 per cent cheaper up till 1970.

In the meantime the advantages gained from rationalisation have been exhausted. Some plant is being used to the full and there would be no benefit to be derived from increasing capacities any further in most cases.

At this latest stage price increases in raw materials (mainly oil), investment requirements and wage and salary bills must be passed on in the form of higher prices.

At the present moment, however, excesses are flooding on to the market. Sections of plant for mass-production of plastics are only running at 75 per cent of capacity.

Factors such as this make it difficult to implement price rises. Thus the chemicals industry will have to tighten its belt with regard to investment in several spheres of production until demand and production capacity have levelled out.

A new trend will be noticed in the investment plans in the future. Countries producing fuel oil want to have a hand in the processing. Plans regarding the integration of the production and processing of crude oil, the manufacture of chemical raw materials derived from petroleum and their further processing to plastics are reaching maturity.

At least a half of the fair in Düsseldorf was given over to the manufacturers of machines for processing plastics. There are about 180 firms in the Federal Republic working in this sphere, 28,000 people roughly are employed in this sector and the production volume last year was more than 1,600 million Marks.

Producers of plastics had prepared themselves well for the polemics that they expected to be directed against them at *K '71*, and quite rightly so, on the question of the environment. The great advantage of plastics is now recognised as being at one and the same time one of their major disadvantages, namely their resistance to deterioration and corrosion.

But life without plastics now is hard to imagine. The wheels of technology cannot be turned back, The industry recognises that the production, processing and use of plastics must be geared to the requirements of the environment. But at the same time those who work with plastics demand that discussions about plastics and the environment should be more matter-of-fact and less emotional.

Gunther Schach

(Deutsche Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

Sales talk – free through the letter box

Twenty-two million households in the Federal Republic will in the course of the next few weeks be sent free twenty million full-colour catalogues, each containing up to 40,000 articles for sale.

Senders of the heavyweight mass-produced catalogues will be the mail-order houses of West Germany which have flourished since the end of the War. The largest of these buy-through-the-post firms enjoy a turnover which stands comparison with that of the major department stores such as Karstadt, Hertie and Kaufhof.

West German large-scale mail-order firms, many of which are still run by their founders, for instance Gustav Schickedanz and Josef Neckermann, had a turnover of more than seven thousand million Marks with their catalogue trade last year. This figure was 4.3 per cent of the total turnover of West German trading concerns.

While conventional businesses, such as tobacconists, sausage sellers, stores, supermarkets and trading chains procure their goods from a wholesaler or an organisation dealing in the distribution of goods on a large scale, mail-order houses obtain their stock direct from the manufacturer, cutting out a middleman and enabling themselves to offer tempting prices.

Big man of the mail-order business is Gustav Schickedanz who runs *Quelle* (the name means 'fountain' or 'source'). His turnover for this year will be about two thousand million Marks, scarcely less than the turnover expected by his two main rivals put together.

These two are *Otto Versand* with an expected turnover for 1071 of 1.2 milliard Marks and Neckermann (900 million Marks).

Schickedanz' group also runs the speciality mail-order house *Schöpflin* and puts on to the market exactly half of the catalogues of the roughly 2,000 small and large West German mail order concerns.

Quelle issues about 6,300,000 volumes costing seven Marks apiece to produce. 3,500,000 of these are special catalogues. Since catalogues are issued twice a year in the spring and autumn Herr Schickedanz has to allow 130 million Marks for the cost of the brightly coloured books alone.

His competition *Neckermann* sends out five million 600-page catalogues twice a year containing articles ranging in price from less than 25 Pfennigs (odds and ends for electrical equipment) to 100,000 Marks (houses!)

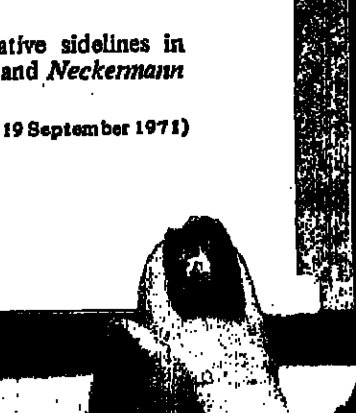
Hamburg's *Otto Versand* makes do with 1,600,000 catalogues with 900 pages costing 15 Marks to produce. Otto concentrates more on using a tightly-knit web of agents and therefore does not need as many catalogues as its rivals.

The major mail-order firms such as *Quelle* and Neckermann have not put all their eggs in one basket but also sell their goods through conventional shops. Including shop sales *Quelle's* trading turnover for 1971 should reach the four-milliard Mark.

Gustav Schickedanz is West Germany's largest producer of hygiene articles and has large interests in breweries. Josef Neckermann' concern now sells so much over the counter that the description of it as a mail-order firm hardly applies statistically.

Neckermann has lucrative sidelines in the *NUR* travel agency and *Neckermann Eigenheim KG*.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 19 September 1971)



AUTOMOBLES

Mercedes millionth diesel-engined private car rolls off the production line

Daimler-Benz, the oldest motor manufacturers in the world, recently celebrated an uncommon jubilee. At Sindelfingen assembly plant, near Stuttgart, the firms's millionth diesel-engined private car, a Mercedes 200 D saloon, ran off the assembly lines.

The millionth diesel-powered Mercedes is an event worth nothing not only in this country. It is a memorable occasion in the world history of an engine that is still a relative newcomer to private cars.

The invention and development of the diesel engine date back to a time when Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz were still designing, building, testing and propagating the first functioning automobiles independently of each other.

Both men developed the petrol engine as a fast propulsion unit for their vehicles.

In 1894 the first stationary diesel engine powered by crude oil saw the light of day in Augsburg. Rudolf Diesel and his associates went on to spend years experimenting with the new engine but to begin with, try as they might, it did not come up to scratch as a propulsion unit for motor vehicles.

In 1907 Rudolf Diesel's original patent rights expired. Not only the original development team at MAN in Augsburg but also teams of creative and imaginative engineers at Daimler's in Marienfelde, Berlin, and Benz's in Mannheim and Gaggenau intensified their efforts to iron out the snags that prevented the classic diesel engine from filling the bill.

Thirty years were to pass before the first large-size diesel engine emerged as a suitable propulsion unit for motor vehicles, though.

The first trials of a marketable four-cylinder Benz diesel engine took place on 10 September 1923 in the hills around Gaggenau. The test vehicle was a five-ton lorry.

On 8 February 1924 the first diesel-engined commercial vehicle in the world, a five-ton Benz lorry with a Cardan rear axle, was premiered at the Amsterdam motor show.

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This vehicle, the sire of all subsequent diesel-engined automobiles, was hailed by the Press as the most technically significant vehicle of the salon. This first series diesel engine for motor vehicles created a sensation.

A few months later all three manufacturers, Daimler, Benz and MAN, unveiled their diesel prototypes at the December 1924 Berlin motor show. The furthest-developed of the three was the model exhibited by Benz of Gaggenau.

Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft and Karl Benz & Cie, Mannheim, joined forces in 1924 and the two firms were finally merged in 1926.

The first major merger in the German and international motor industry 45 years ago laid the groundwork for the swift progress that then ensued. Now that the diesel engine was feasible proposition the new firm set about developing it with a will.

The Daimler-Benz diesel embarked on its triumphant progress. Now that the competition had been brought to an end by the merger the Benz principle was firmly adopted, having proved its superiority by virtue of design simplicity and the straightforward process of combustion.

The Daimler-Benz diesel proved such a sucess that diesel-powered commercial vehicles went from strength to strength. In the commercial vehicle sector the diesel engine had, as it were, taken over from the conventional combustion engine.

The diesel engine was still a long way off proving satisfactory for private cars, though. It was another twelve years before the first diesel-engined private car saw the light of day.

A 2.6-litre Daimler-Benz, it was premiered at the Berlin motor show in spring 1936 and caused an immediate sensation. The first long run of diesel-engined private cars began to roll off the assembly lines in 1937.

In 1948 a smaller model was unveiled. It was powered by a robust four-cylinder diesel engine and relatively inexpensive both to buy and to run.

The success story of this first post-war diesel, the Mercedes-Benz 170 D and its two successors, was outdone by the 180 D introduced in 1954.

The 180 D was not discontinued until autumn 1962, by which time 153,000 units had been manufactured. It was soon joined by a 190 D, a more powerful and faster model that, driven by Karl Kling, won the Algiers to Capetown rally in 1959, averaging 80.6 km/h (fifty miles an hour) over a distance of 14,045 kilometres (8,800 miles).

On 8 April 1965 an improved version of the 190 D was the half millionth diesel to run off the Daimler-Benz assembly lines, the firm now being the world's largest manufacturer of diesel-powered vehicles.

The 750,000-mark was passed in November 1968, that January having s[...] the birth of a new generation of Merc[...] diesels, the 200 and 220 D, 105,50[...] 210,865 of which respectively have [...] been manufactured.

It has only taken another three ye[...] reach the million-mark and the j[...] vehicle, a Mercedes 200 D, has [...] donated to the TV lottery for chari[...] purposes.

To this day Daimler-Benz have eng[...] in intensive research and developme[...] order to ensure that diesel engines [...] up to date.

The diesel engine has carved a s[...] niche for itself not only in comme[...] vehicles but also among private car[...] would seem to be capable of consider[...] further development, more, certainly, than conventional combustion engin[...] let alone others.

Already diesel-engined cars are t[...] environment's best friend among mo[...] vehicles, a fact that is appreciated [...] only by legislators but also by increas[...] numbers of customers.

The carbon monoxide content of die[...] exhaust fumes is only a tenth and [...] nitrous oxide content only half or so [...] comparable figures for conventiona[...] powered cars.

Virtually indestructible, the diesel [...]gine is thus sitting pretty. It is unaffected by clean exhaust regulations as part [...] the environmental protection drive. C[...]ly alterations to the design of the die[...] engine will not be needed for many yea[...] to come in this respect. *Willi Wieczorek*

(Publik, 17 September 19[...])

The caravanning craze continues to grow and grow

For some years people have been used to the idea of the number of caravans increasing. The indications are that numbers will continue to increase.

It is, when all is said and done, common knowledge that a caravan is the key to an annual holiday unhampered by poor weather, frim bookings and set dates.

What is more, shorter holidays and long weekends can be spent on nearby camping sites as though caravanners owned de luxe holiday homes of their own.

The 1972 caravans on show at the tenth international caravan salon in Essen from 9 to 16 October bear eloquent witness to the trend.

Regular campers, families who use their caravans whenever the opportunity arises most if not all of the year round, set great store by as much covered accommodation as possible.

The weather being what it is in this part of the world holidaymakers are bound to spend much of their time indoors and the more room there is in the caravan the better.

In view of the trend major domestic and foreign manufacturers are specialising in larger models that can be towed to the site by private car but when fully assembled are from twenty to 24 feet long.

The superstructure is fully insulated and affords complete protection from the vagaries of the weather, so much as that the new season's caravans could well pass muster as mobile Alpine huts.

They have complete kitchens and washing facilities, plenty of storage space, and unfurnished living section and neatly arranged banks for parents and children.

Ten to twelve thousand Marks for a home on wheels seems a reasonable price to pay.

Yard for yard furnished mobile homes in the 20 to 25 square metre (27 to 33 square yard) category are even better at 8,000 Marks and upwards. These, however, are no longer caravans in that they have to be transported by articulated or low-loader lorry.

Even if the family cannot afford to invest so much money in a holiday home and is keen on the idea of spending weekends and the summer holidays in a caravan there is no reason to despair.

Unlike many other industries the caravan manufacturers have been able to keep prices down to a phenomenal degree. This year as in the past a number of manufacturers market ready-to-roll caravans sleeping three or four people for less than 3,000 Marks.

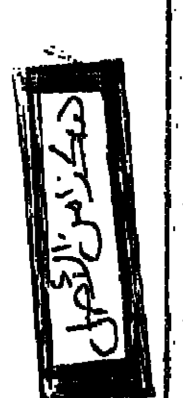
It took domestic manufacturers some time to realise that more can be done than combining seats and bunks for space reasons. At least one manufacturer is now marketing for less than 10,000 Marks caravans boasting genuine bedrooms with genuine twin or double beds.

Even though, as has already been noted, most caravan-buyers regard their purchases as holiday homes rather than as vehicles chassis manufacturers have not been inactive.

Many manufacturers are not exaggerating when they claim that their new season's caravans are equipped with reverse gears. No fewer than three major chassis suppliers have in recent months introduced a useful and inexpensive addition to the trailer brakes that functions automatically when the car in front goes into reverse.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 13 September 1971)

Deutsche Shell forecasts car increase will decline by 1975



Frankfurter Allgemeine

The traffic chaos so often dramatically forecast for the late seventies is a figment of the forecasters' imaginations. From 1975 on the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads of this country will decline perceptibly, according to the results of a survey commissioned by Deutsche Shell.

The increase in the number of motor vehicles, the report concludes, is nearing saturation point faster than is generally supposed.

Between 1970 and 1975 the number of motor vehicles will increase by an estimated 24.7 per cent. Between 1975 and 1980 the increase is expected to be a mere 9.8 per cent and between 1980 and 1985 as little as 4.2 per cent.

In view of the increase in the number of second cars the amount of traffic in terms of mileage per vehicle will increase even more slowly, by 20.5, 6.2 and 0.6 per cent respectively over the same five-year periods.

As a result there will, the Shell survey concludes, be no further increase in the gap between new cars and new roads after 1975 and the gap will indeed be partially plugged provided roadbuilding continues at its present pace.

In the newly published survey Shell recall that the last survey, covering the period up to and including 1975, has so far proved accurate.

At a time when there were only 5.3 million cars on the roads the forecast of, say, 14.4 million motor vehicles by mid-1971 was felt to be daring in the extreme.

The actual figure may have been 5.4 per cent higher but this, the forecasters feel, is due to the fact that 1971 has been the peak of a boom period and thus as out of the ordinary as the recession of 1966 and 1967.

The accuracy of previous forecasts has encouraged Shell to issue further forecasts of the actual expected number of private cars at given times in the future.

Mid-1971's 15,1 million cars will by 1975 have increased to 17.4 million, to 19.1 million by 1980 and 19.9 million by 1985.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 September 1971)

Ten millionth Opel rolls off the assembly lines

On 6 September the ten millionth Opel rolled off the assembly lines at the Rüsselsheim works, Frankfurt. Seventy-two years separate the first and the ten millionth Opel.

The first million was clocked up in 1940 and had thus taken 42 years to manufacture. The tenth million took less than a year and a half to produce.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 September 1971)

RAILWAYS

Bundesbahn introduces inter-city expresses linking 33 cities in this country

As the winter timetables come into force Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, feel better equipped to meet the challenge of fiercer competition for long-distance passenger traffic between air, road and rail transport.

On 26 September the inter-city express network got off to a flying start. First-class services now link 33 cities in major industrial areas all over the country up to eight times a day.

Rolf Rückel, director of services at Bundesbahn headquarters, reckons the inter-city network is a superb system covering 2,400 miles of permanent way.

At a mobile press conference held en route from Frankfurt to Mannheim on 15 September Herr Rückel noted that this was the first attempt in the world to run regular rail services over long distances at two-hourly intervals.

Even in the more distant future, he felt, air transport would not be able to match either the network or the coverage. He described the new, comfortable express carriages as the cat's whiskers.

In order to ensure regular two-hourly services between seven in the morning and eleven at night the inter-city network will use not only the existing sixty Trans-Europe and long-distance expresses but also a further forty first-class trains.

A hundred and thirty new carriages have been bought at half a million Marks each, not to mention sixty 103 class locomotives costing nearly three million Marks each. Starting next spring inter-city trains will be a distinctive, uniform cream-red.

On four main routes the services cover to all intents and purposes the existing long-distance sections between Hamburg and Bremen on the one hand and Munich and Basle on the other.

The timetables, however, have been so arranged that where the four lines meet, at Cologne, Dortmund, Hanover and Mannheim, connections are available, and additional connections (to and from Nuremberg, say) at Augsburg.

As a rule passengers need only to cross the platform to change trains. Seat bookings can be transferred from one train to another, carriages being provided for this express purpose.

Inter-city trains cost eight Marks over and above the normal first-class fare. A return ticket from Hamburg to Munich costs 211 Marks. The present air fare is 340 Marks.

The Bundesbahn makes no bones about the fact that their new network, which incidentally involves only half a per cent of the 19,000-odd daily services, is particularly aimed at businessmen, who in the past have preferred to travel by car because of the long waiting-periods that slow down rail travel.

It is especially hoped that rail travel will now prove a more attractive proposition over distances of more than 300 miles, which at present, Rückel admits, "air transport has pretty well taped."

Bundesbahn planners hope that regular two-hourly services will boost overall takings, particularly as first-class travel is on the increase (sales of first-class tickets increased by fourteen per cent last year).

Comfort and conveniences are to be improved accordingly. Inter-city trains have roomier, air-conditioned compartments, telephones and secretarial facilities.

"A special public," Rolf Rückel says, "requires special facilities. We are no snobs but we do realise that improved comfort only really appeals to a certain section of the travelling public starting at, say, the middle class."

This is why there is no intention of providing inter-city trains with second-class compartments. The reason officially given is that the trains would then be too heavy and too slow.

For the time being, though, inter-city trains do not cut travelling time. There are no immediate plans to travel at a maximum speed of more than 100 miles an hour, a speed reached by the Reichsbahn's Flying Hamburger in 1933, incidentally.

Safety first, railway officials say, and aim to keep inter-city trains on the move at speeds of between sixty and 75 miles an hour.

In the course of 1972 the sections of permanent way between Nannhöfen, Munich, and Donauwörth and Langenhagen, Hanover and Uelzen are to be improved to cater for speeds of up to 125 miles an hour and travelling time will be shortened from 1973 on.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

Lufthansa reduces trans-Atlantic fares

For years the North Atlantic run has been the airlines' No. 1 money-spinner. Fare agreements have gone by the board now that charter travel has knocked the bottom out of the market, however.

At present there are no fewer than 52 different fares for tourist travel between the Old World and the New.

Improbable thought it may sound this collapse of the international air fares system is partly due to the changes in US policy on Vietnam.

The enormous air fleets that used to shuttle troops to and fro between America and South-East Asia are now at a loose end and out to corner a share of the tourist market.

This process is comparable to post-war developments in world shipping when the US Liberty ships built during the war for military transport purposes were for the most part sold off to private bidders.

Lufthansa have now decided to act, cutting fares and ending the jumble of different rates and the exodus to charter travel.

This country's national airline reckons the days are over when the situation could be concealed by air fare stratagems. This is no doubt the case.

Unusual though this decision by Lufthansa to go it alone may be, sooner or later the other major operators will have to follow suit. *Arnold Gehlen*

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

■ FASHION

Hellmuth Palm discusses the operations of the West German Fashion Institute

"Fashion," said Hellmuth Palm, president of the West German Fashion Institute, "was once an expensive game for the rich. Now it has become of interest to all." He was discussing the functions and aims of fashion.

This would sound euphemistic if it were not known that the speaker has had considerable experience in presenting the latest fashions to the public, fashions that are one day luxury items and then the next consumer goods available anywhere.

Rapid industrialisation and the production line, the break up of the authoritarian structure of society and 25 years of prosperity have brought fashion's traditions into question. Nevertheless it seems that the change of position has come easily. The truth probably is that fashion has made use of its natural gift of quick-change particularly when it is a question of the structure of the fashion world.

Hellmuth Palm is firmly convinced that consumers give the lead to fashion today. "The manufacturer must take the consumer's demands into consideration, but this does not mean that he must uncritically accept all the demands of our pluralistic society." Goods offered arouse needs. But needs, the desire to own something, promotes product ideas.

This can be kept in check so that rational products are available. But this can also be eased on the public without the public crying that manufacturers are terrorising them.

Hellmuth Palm maintains: "An appetite is often only found after the food is prepared." And he defends with all his might the time-honoured industrial aim of satisfying elementary needs, to take home clothes that satisfy one's sense of taste.

Only those who are able to satisfy these needs can operate in normal economic conditions with success.

The West German rag trade employs 150,000 workers in 1,500 firms that operate 2,500 factories. In 1970 the turnover for the industry was 5.5 milliard Marks.

More than 55 per cent of all women's overcoats and fifty per cent of all children's coats worn in Europe were manufactured in the Federal Republic. These figures give the word *fashion* a totally different meaning. The West German Fashion Institute thus operates on a very solid trading basis.

Foundation

The West German Fashion Institute (DMI) was founded in 1954 to provide a neutral ground for the industry, for trade and for the press. The institute's aims are to soften the risks that beset the rag trade and to aid the trade to avoid the more obvious pitfalls.

"The institute does not possess any surefire answer for success in the rag trade," president Palm deprecatingly maintains. "We try to make the fashion world creditable to the public at large and to make it attractive to consumers."

The institute is no competitor to other organisations in the rag trade and has no influence on the question of prices. Hellmuth Palm comments: "Prices remain the decision of manufacturers and they must remain so."

Hellmuth Palm has been the DMI chief for ten years, supported by a committee that sits with representatives from all the major manufacturers — from producers of raw materials to cloth manufacturers and producers of readymade clothing.

Three groups operate to sound things out. There is 'Farbe' led by Hellmuth Palm, then 'Mode Silhouette, Stoffstrukturen' headed by the famous couturier from Krefeld, Werner Lauer, and finally 'Information' that is led by Helmut Gilbert.

For eighteen months at a time between 80 and 100 representatives from all branches of the rag trade serve in these groups. Twice a year they prepare colour samples and models of readymade clothes and organise fashion shows for the textiles industry and for the specialist press. All this costs mony. Subscriptions are paid by members of the Fashion Institute to cover these expenses.

"We can only give sustained help to the readymade clothing trade and the trade in general if we do not have to work in a vacuum in this country," Hellmuth Palm explains.

Season's colours

Hellmuth Palm is a member of the international organisation Centre d'Information et de la Couleur with headquarters in Paris. Sixteen other countries belong to this organisation including America and Japan. At this organisation the colours for the coming fashion season are laid down.

Members of the rag trade are able to swop ideas on fashion trends twice a year with colleagues from all over the world at the *Comité International de Liaison des Industries de Vêtement Féminin* in Paris. In this way women in West Germany and France, America and Italy are assured of learning what is going on in the fashion world.

West Germany's opinions at these get-togethers are listened to carefully, for, according to Hellmuth Palm, this country's rag trade has a first-rate organisation, is modern and well managed and is one of the leaders in Europe.

Nevertheless the DMI finds itself in the position of the cook who is asked to prepare a meal without actually knowing if the guests have an appetite. "Who knows what German women will want to wear in six months' time? " Hellmuth Palm comments. Herr Palm shrugs his shoulders and is not entirely without some ideas.

Trends take place with a certain amount of planning, but the word planning does not go comfortably together with the idea of fashion. The word is connected with the more reviled areas of fashion direction. Where, if there is planning, is there room for creative activity, for direct creative initiatives?

Hellmuth Palm comments: "Individual creativity is not lost altogether. It remains as ever, in the hands of gifted couturiers. We cannot give up all claim to their influence."

Statistical market research aids fashion creators at the beginning of every season. Consumer spending is considered, the progress made in the development of new materials and the experiences gained with using these materials. Sociological as well as psychological factors are taken into account as well as empirical basics such as the exploitation of taste.

"Taking these provisions into consideration it is possible to bring about a relatively successful marketing operation," Hellmuth Palm points out. He continues: "Nevertheless it is sometimes necessary to put these suggestions aside, namely when the consumer arrives at the point when she considers that the goods offered are false, perhaps because the time is not ripe to present the goods on the market or perhaps because influences have appeared that have not been taken into account." An example of this is the midi which has not yet replaced the mini, which all supposed it would do.

It can however happen that in grandmother's junk shop, or in the flea market, or in a bestseller or a popular film or in the promotion of a popular singer a fashion can be presented that overnight becomes a hit on the streets. The rag trade is taken by surprise, completely unprepared for this trend and must, in this case, follow the lead given by youth. Just as quickly a fashion can disappear as it has appeared — often before it has become commercially viable.

But the rag trade sometimes gets to know of these possible developments in time, particularly if fashion has been influenced for some time by certain trends. The problem here is, according to Hellmuth Palm when a long-term trend is confused with a here-today hit.

In order to be able to recognise these potential "shooting-stars" and to incorporate these developments with the fashion of the season the West German Fashion Institute has recently set up in Krefeld a "Modesekretariat", headed by Leo Haerten, a well-known fashion expert.

Informants throughout the world pass on observations made of what women are wearing, to the Krefeld organisation. These observations and comments are evaluated and then passed on to possible interested quarters in this country.

But the DMI's work does not stop at discerning the trends and forecasting future developments. The consumer demands of women have in recent years basically changed, a problem that is a continuous theme of discussion at Institute conferences.

Fifteen million of the 25 million women in this country dress conservatively, according a Marplan survey. They favour comfortable and sportingly elegant clothes. Only 2.3 million women could be considered avantgarde, ready to accept immediately the latest fashion ideas. This last statistic is of considerable interest to the rag trade and has not gone unnoticed. The DMI strives to arrange this vertical division into a horizontal division, so that shops can offer to all groups fashions they want to buy.

Hellmuth Palm explains: "Group conformity has taken the place of n[on-]conformity. Attitudes to life, one's [view] of oneself, temperament, job, figure type all play a critical role in a wo[man's] choice of clothes." These factors [...] make the so-called "Zielgruppe", [the] target group.

The rag trade must offer a varie[ty of] articles in order to please the consu[mer.] It is a difficult matter to present [one's] personality in the clothes one w[ears.] Because of this the readymade c[lothing] industry must offer clothes in va[rious] fashions, in various lengths but wit[hout] forgetting completely the general fa[shion] line.

"Age only plays a relatively small [role] in fashion. These days there is neither [a] fashion for the matron nor a fashion f[or] the teenager." Hellmuth Palm concer[...] According to Herr Palm nowada[ys] fashion is a question of attitude.

"Fashion has gone young without [a] doubt," he said. "Youth today has [a] strong influence on fashion. This wa[s not] so previously. The older generation [...] once. But a difference must be m[ade] between the young look, the look to g[ive] you youth, and teenage wear." Teen[age] wear is only a small division of t[he] fashion idea that could be called t[he] young look.

Fashions for the coming spring [and] summer seasons have already been c[...] the design studios and mannequins ha[ve] tried out the creations. The line is [a] logical continuation of winter fashions.

The West German Fashion Institu[te] sends out to the rag trade circulars giv[ing] details of the new fashions. To the circulars tables are attached in which t[he] various materials are endorsed with o[ne,] two or three crosses — notice to t[he] industry of the strength of the enquiri[es.] These are divided into conservative a[nd] avantgarde.

Conservative clothes

The DMI expects there to be increas[ed] interest in conservative clothes such a[s] Shetland clothes and tweeds as *well as* crêpe de chine. The move towards 'se[parates]', a jacket or a blouse to go with [a] skirt or trousers will increase in pressure.

Colours are dominated by what [is] called 'colour joy' and it seems th[at] bright colours are still going to hold th[e] centre of the stage.

Hellmuth Palm is of the view that fres[h] colours will replace the rather drea[ry] colours of last season. These colours could only possibly find favour among the young, because of their tendency to make a woman look older. He sai[d:] "There is no doubt that women a[re] already prepared for this colour change in fashions. It would be hopeless to change a fashion trend if there was not the need for it among consumers." *Gisela Twer*

(Die Welt, 18 September 1971)

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SPORT

International Olympics Committee meets in Luxembourg to iron out problems

[Ev]eryone knows that when Zeus was [an]gry he bombarded Mankind with [thun]derbolts. Mankind, or at least that [par]t of it that was conversant with Greek [myt]hology, was afraid and did not [brea]the a sigh of relief until the clouds [ha]d cleared from the summit of Mount Olympus.

Thunder and lightning on Mount Olym[p]us these days is, if anything, a little on the pathetic side. The lightning flashes of the stormy past are now viewed calmly as indications of bad weather.

The 71st session of the International Olympic Committee in Luxembourg was, on the other hand, an occasion for lightning flashes of the old kind.

IOC President Avery Brundage, 84, thundered grumpily into the microphone, European Communists and African nationalists carried out their ritual duties, as it were, with little enthusiasm and everyone present chewed over the age-old problems, looking not a little long in the tooth themselves for the most part.

This gathering of worthies is the highest-ranking authority in the world of sport. Its moral viewpoint is so pure and free from doubt that the distance between it and this vale of sorrows is almost frightening.

Comparison with the United Nations is almost a matter of course. The IOC is an imposing gathering of men of the highest rank, a legislative with two doormen as its executive.

Were the IOC ever to consider or have to wage war on its own behalf one would feel bound to ask Stalin's question of the Vatican — How many divisions does the *IOC* have?

It has none. The IOC, Mr Brundage growled in Luxembourg, nevertheless intends in future not only to penalise individual offenders against the amateur code. It also proposes to penalise National Olympic Committees.

How it proposed to go about this was not mentioned, though.

The IOC intends to combat groupings of, say, Africans and Communists, Mr Brundage thundered. The representatives of the countries concerned looked him calmly in the eye. Being a member of the IOC is one thing; being a German, a Korean, a Chinese or a Russian is another.

Members of the International Olympic Committee, Mr Brundage noted, were there to advocate the ideals of the Olympic movement and nothing else. To nudge these ideals, let alone to attempt to revise them, amounts to blasphemy in the president's eyes.

The old man has often been cursed for being obdurate and stubborn and the IOC has frequently been decried as a gathering of feeble old men. Neither accusation is true.

Avery Brundage is intelligent, witty, admirably robust and head and shoulders above most of his colleagues. They too are no longer so old that it is worthwhile adding their ages to see whether the total in years reaches 5,000 or not.

What worries Mr Brundage and most members of the IOC is that the slightest concession on Olympic regulations, the amateur status or commercialisation of sport such as allowing brand names to adorn kit might well call the entire movement into question.

The present state of affairs at least allows the men responsible to retain their fig-leaf. The socialist countries have invented the state-sponsored amateur and the Americans have been giving their amateurs university appointments and scholarships for decades.

This country has launched the Sports Aid Foundation, an organisation that gives promising athletes grants and so creates a category of young athletic pensioners, as it were. The IOC has come to realise that this at least must be countenanced and has indeed accepted this state of affairs.

Were the ideals of the Olympic movement to be reviewed the operation would not be performed under the leadership of Mr Brundage, who is to retire next year. And none of his likely successors would appear to be of the stuff to do so either.

Maybe this is a task to be tackled by the generation that next year will still be participating in an Olympics subject to prehistoric rules and regulations.

The man who reforms the Olympic movement, whoever he may be, will not be another Brundage but he will certainly have to share one characteristic with the Chicago millionaire. He must have will-power, character and the old man's mastery of the IOC.

"You will have to stick me for another year," the patriarch announced with grim humour in Luxembourg. It will be a year in which he will be casting many a thunderbolt.

He is far too intelligent not to realise that many of his thunderbolts are not taken as seriously as they used to be but the magnificent way in which he overlooks the fact is a truly Olympic feat.

Horst Vetten

(Die Zeit, 24 September 1971)

Zeiss develops electronic measuring device

It has always been a time-wasting problem at athletics meetings to measure out the distances in field events such as javelin, discus and hammer-throwing.

This is a task for which Zeiss of Oberkochen have now developed an electronic measuring device, the Reg Elta 14 tachymeter.

The adjudicator marks the spot where the javelin etc. lands, using a prismatic reflector. An observer at the side of the field trains a telescope on the marker.

All that is then needed is a push on the tachymeter button. The tachymeter measures the distance, records it on magnetic tape and relays it to the electronic screen in a fraction of a second. Greater speed is hardly conceivable.

(Handelsblatt, 24 September 1971)

A few words from cycling coach Rudi Altig

Rudi Altig, the country's best-known racing cyclist, is to train the amateurs for 1972. An ex-professional from Mannheim, Altig made a name for himself in the Tour de France, the world's most popular international cycling event, after starting his professional career as the reigning amateur world pursuit champion. He is now on the staff of the Düsseldorf sporting news agency Sport-Informations-Dienst. As the national coach he is to work in conjunction with Karl Ziegler, the trainer who first discovered him. Rudi Altig, speaking from his Cologne home, discusses his appointment.

In recent weeks I have been asked at least half a dozen times a day what interests me so much about coaching this country's amateur road racers.

There is a simple answer. I do not feel our amateurs to be weaker than the Italians, Belgians, French and so on. They are just as good as their opposite numbers in other countries.

It is merely a matter of how promising youngsters are promoted and how we set about coaching them.

That is why I am keen on coaching them and why, after a little thought, I agreed more than a year ago when Josef Neckermann of the Sports Aid Foundation asked me whether I would be prepared to take the job on.

Unfortunately nothing came of the idea on that occasion and a valuable year has been wasted.

Meanwhile I have made contact with our best men on the Tour of the Rhineland-Palatinate and at the road-racing world championships in Mendrisio.



Two points struck me. It was extremely gratifying to see how enthusiastic most of them are. Many cycling amateurs are brim full of eagerness to beat the other man.

Unfortunately this will to win is mostly thrown overboard because the amateurs make their breaks at the wrong moment and often compete with each other.

This was alarmingly evident during the Palatinate tour, especially on the second day. It was, of course, none of my business because I was in a Press car but when I saw how our youngsters were racing each other to the benefit of foreign competitors I jumped out and gave them a piece of my mind.

I am convinced that on the basis of my own experience I can give our boys many a useful hint in this respect. Good tactical advice is particularly important in road-racing.

I would, however, like to emphasise that I am not a miracle-worker. I cannot be expected to clinch Olympic medals in Munich in only half a year's work. Miracles seldom happen.

I have made it quite clear to leading officials of the cycling association that I am only prepared to take on the job in conjunction with coach Karl Ziegler.

We have known one another for more than fifteen years and used to be a good team. It has nothing to do with being grateful or not hurting people's feelings. I know for a fact that I will get on well with Ziegler.

I known no better man in cycling where theory is concerned. My job will be to assist him on the practical side. I am convinced that we will get on well together. (Die Welt, 22 September 1971)

(Photo: Sven Simon)

First supporters' club founded

Club 96, a supporters' club that aims to help Hanover's Federal league football club, is to hold practical tests on the field of play for football supporters.

The idea is to demonstrate to the fans how difficult it often is to carry out certain moves in the game when the referee is regularly blowing his whistle.

Participants in the trials of dribbling, penalty kicks, long shots, long throw-ins, heading and juggling with the ball will be awarded "supporters' certificates."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 September 1971)

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